



Wayne County, North Carolina Board of Commissioners

February 23, 2026
224 E. Walnut Street
Courthouse 4th Floor
Goldsboro, NC 27530

MINUTES

PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELLPHONES

8:00 A.M. BREAKFAST

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Joe C. Daughtery

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 08:32 AM in Room F of the Maxwell Center, 3114-A Wayne Memorial Drive, Goldsboro, North Carolina, after due notice thereof had been given.

Members present: Chairman Joe C. Daughtery, Joe Democko, and Tim Harrell.

Members absent: Vice-Chairman Chris Gurley, Barbara Aycock, Bevan Foster and Antonio Williams.

Other present: County Manager Chip Crumpler, Assistant County Manager Ginger Moore, County Attorney Andrew Neal, Finance Director Angie Boswell and Deputy Clerk to the Board Kayla Whitley.

Representatives present: William Moore from Congressman Greg Murphy's office, Blake Belch from Senator Tedd Budd's office, Representative John Bell, and Senator Buck Newton.

DISCUSSION WITH LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

County Manager Chip Crumpler gave a presentation on the Board of Commissioners Legislative Goals, attached hereto as Attachment A.

Chairman Joe C. Daughtery emphasized that a regional sewer authority was the number 1 goal. He stated Wayne County is not prepared for commercial or industrial growth and relies on the City of Goldsboro for a treatment facility. He said with Mount Olive's moratorium, they are not an option and neither are the Town of Fremont nor the Town of Eureka.

Senator Buck Newton asked how the governance of the sewer authority would be made up and if every entity would have a seat on the board.

Representative John Bell asked if Wayne County could handle the authority. He stated the City of Goldsboro would not be willing to relinquish their sewer system. He

expressed concerns about adding insufficient systems together, but stated that with new leadership within the entities there would be a possibility for a merger. He said the State of North Carolina has reserved funds for a regional sewer authority. He stated this could be a great opportunity as it would allow for additional economic development. He discussed the state funding that could be available for sewer repairs to the existing systems and suggested considering adding additional entities such as the Village of Walnut Creek and the Town of Seven Springs.

Senator Newton said growth was coming as two large Johnson and Johnson plants in Wilson County were being built and would push growth toward Wayne County. He asked if the authority would have public member appointments as well as a representative from each entity that participated.

Representative Bell asked how quickly the Board would like this project to begin and Chairman Daughtery said as soon as possible. Representative Bell said the earliest would be April 2026, but if that was not the case, it would be presented in January 2027.

At 8:56 a.m. Commissioner Joe Democko left the meeting.

Chairman Joe C. Daughtery discussed making the regional sewer authority a legislative order, but Senator Newton said it would be difficult as you can't take away an entity's assets and give them to someone else. Chairman Daughtery said he was hopeful that all the entities would agree.

Chairman Joe C. Daughtery discussed the implantation of a 911 service fee to raise necessary revenue and zero-interest school construction loans for Tier 1 counties. He stated construction costs have increased in recent years, and it costs more to build a school than it did previously and allowing Tier 1 counties to have zero interest loans would save the county money.

Commissioner Tim Harrell addressed the needs-based public school grants, stating they were awarded a grant for the construction of Fremont Elementary. He said the county match for the grant used to be 5%, but it has increased to 15%. He expressed his concerns about Brogden Primary School as it was larger and would cost more, stating it could potentially cost approximately \$50 million. Senator Newton asked how many needs-based grants the County had received in the last 10 years. Commissioner Harrell said only one for Fremont since Representative Bell secured the funding for Rosewood Middle School, but they planned to apply for Brodgen Primary.

Chairman Joe C. Daughtery discussed a federal goal of establishing regional sewer grants. He explained the benefits of a combined sewer system and how it would allow for long-term community impact.

Deputy District Director for Congressman Greg Murphy, William Moore, asked if the Board of Commissioners had met with Onslow County to discuss their regional sewer authority. He explained it was a fantastic system and encouraged a meeting.

County Manager Chip Crumpler discussed mission expansion at Seymour Johnson

Air Force Base, including drones as unmanned aircraft.

Blake Belch from Senator Ted Budd's office stated the legislative staff is excited to hear the board's requests and that things appear to be headed into the Artificial Intelligence realm.

Chairman Joe C. Daughtery discussed school construction funding for Tier 1 counties with military bases. Commissioner Tim Harrell mentioned the Defensive Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) and discussed the application process and what the County would need additionally. Chairman Daughtery stated the County needed to prepare for the future and that includes improving public education.

Senator Newton asked what the State Legislators could do to help enhance Seymour Johnson AFB.

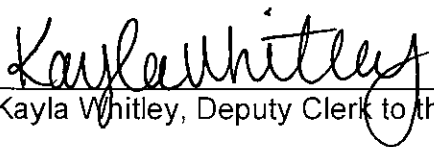
Representative Bell stated the State was apprehensive about providing school construction loans as it becomes a political battle. Commissioner Tim Harrell discussed funding for the exceptional children programs. He stated the developmental day funds were no longer an option as eligibility has changed. Representative Bell discussed a possible institution at O'Berry Center and Cherry hospital that could be beneficial and Chairman Daughtery stated that parents would rather send their kids to school than to an institution. Commissioner Tim Harrell discussed the funding that goes to charter schools and discussed the possibility of keeping it within the school system.

Representative Bell asked the Board for a prepared plan to discuss with other legislators to secure additional funding for the projects requested.

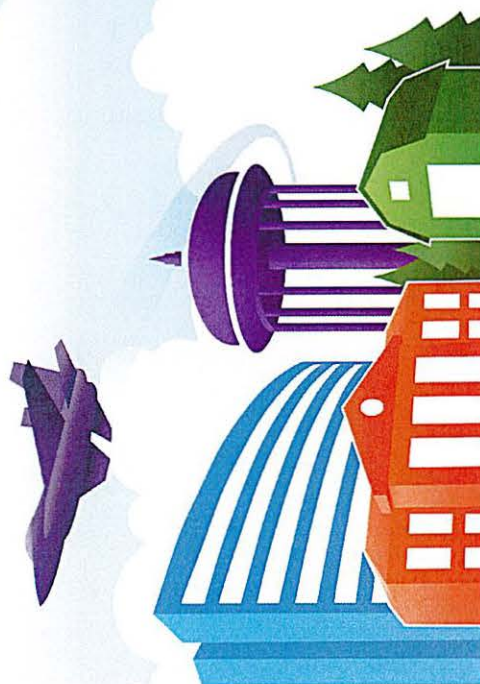
The Board discussed growth, data centers, and infrastructure.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:32 AM, Chairman Joe C. Daughtery adjourned the meeting of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners.


Kayla Whitley, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Wayne County Legislative Priorities 2026



WAYNECOUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

Legislative Focus Areas

- Infrastructure
- Public Safety
- Education
- National Defense
- Improving Quality of Life

Legislative Action Requests

• **State Legislation:**

- Regional Sewer Authority
- 911 Funding Authority
- Zero-Interest School Construction for Tier 1 Counties

• **Federal Congressional Action:**

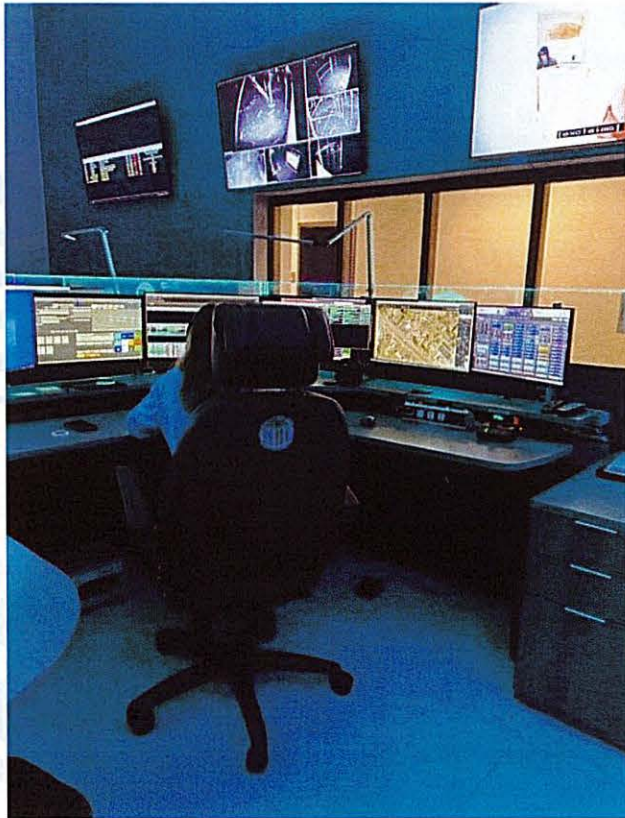
- Federal Regional Sewer Grants
- Seymour Johnson AFB Mission Expansion
- Federal Funding for School Construction for Tier 1 Counties with Military Bases

NC Legislation Request: Regional Sewer Authority

- Consolidate wastewater systems countywide
- Improve efficiency, cost, and compliance
- Remove political decision-making constraints
- Support economic development



NC Legislation Request: 911 Funding Authority



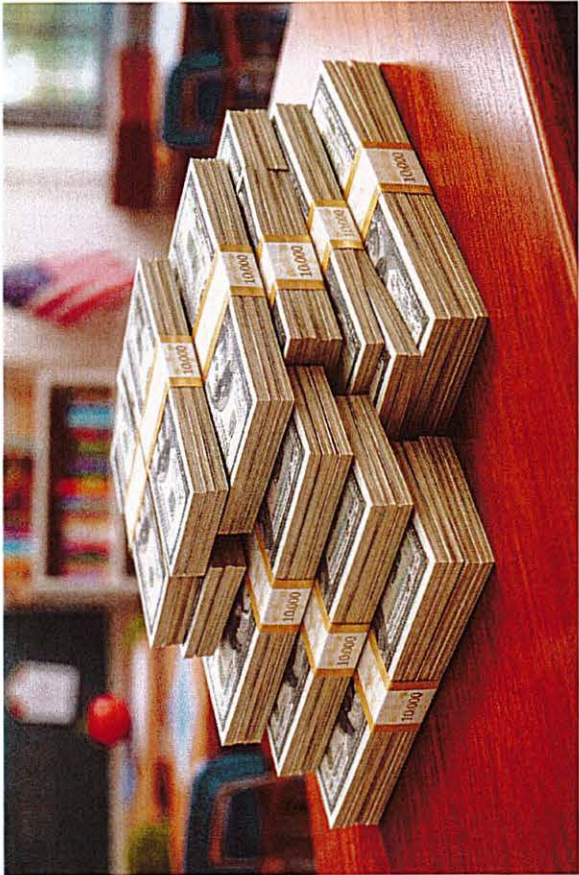
- Rising operational and staffing costs
- Need for a dedicated funding source
- Reduce reliance on property taxes

NC Legislation Request: Zero-Interest School Construction Loans

- Tier 1 Counties Only
- County Has Principal-Only Repayment
- State Covers Interest Expense
- State Borrowing at Lower Interest Rate



School Savings Examples



- \$60M new school → \$30M in interest avoided
- \$25M renovation → \$9M in interest avoided

Federal Action: Regional Sewer Grants

ADVANTAGES OF A COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM

- **Preserves Prime Farmland**
 - Large areas of Wayne County cannot support septic systems
 - Development is forced onto prime farmland that can perk
 - Regional sewer allows growth in appropriate locations while preserving agriculture
- **Removes the Primary Barrier to Economic Development**
 - Lack of sewer capacity is the single greatest constraint on large projects
- **Regional sewer enables:**
 - Needed Industrial Parks
 - Large-scale commercial development
- **Supports Environmental Protection**
 - Reduces reliance on failing or aging septic systems
 - Improves groundwater and surface water quality
 - Enhances long-term regulatory compliance

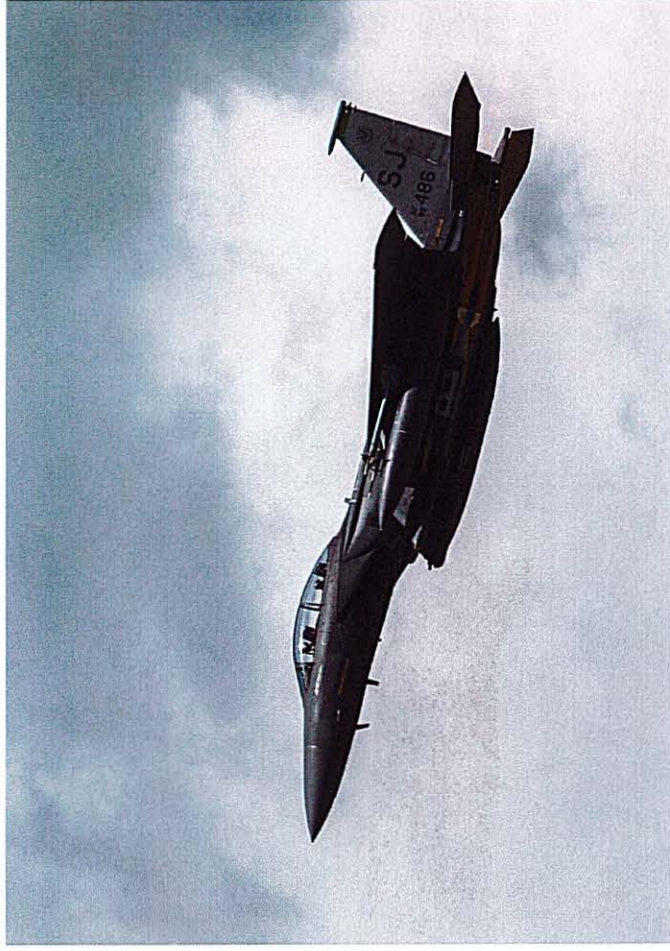
Federal Action: Regional Sewer Grants

LONG-TERM COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **Raises Family Incomes**
 - Infrastructure attracts higher-wage industries
 - Expands employment opportunities close to home
 - Reduces workforce out-migration
- **Expands the Local Tax Base**
 - Broadens the tax base without proportional service demands
 - Reduces long-term pressure on residential property taxes
- **Improves Housing Availability**
 - Enables workforce and mixed-use housing
 - Reduces Land Cost to Reduce Housing Costs
 - Supports balanced growth without sprawl
- **High Return on Federal Dollars**
 - Leverages private investment
 - Generates long-term job creation
 - Strengthens regional economic flexibility

Federal Support: Seymour Johnson AFB - Current Mission

- We strongly support current mission
- Support continuation of 4th Fighter Wing mission
- Vital to our community



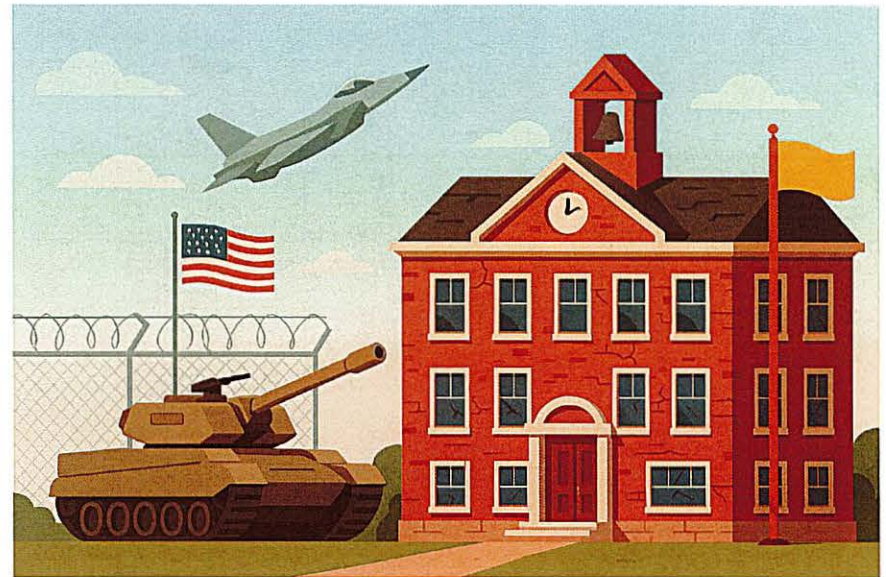
Federal Support: Seymour Johnson AFB – Mission Expansion



- Integrate next-gen air defense bomber operations
- Add drone/unmanned systems
- Diversify missions for regional stability
- Helps improve base security

Federal Support: School Construction for Tier 1 Counties with Military Bases

- Many Tier 1 counties with military bases face aging, overcrowded school facilities.
- Prioritize funding for school construction in counties supporting national defense.
- Quality local schools enhance service member recruitment, retention, and family stability.
- Helps low-wealth counties meet educational standards without increasing local tax burdens.



Legislative Priorities to Strengthen Wayne County

- **North Carolina Legislative Requests:**

- Establish a Regional Sewer Authority for efficiency and growth
- Secure 911 Funding Authority for sustainable emergency services
- Provide Zero-Interest School Construction for Tier 1 counties

- **Federal Congressional Requests:**

- Fund Regional Sewer Infrastructure to support development
- Expand and diversify Seymour Johnson AFB missions
- Support School Construction Funding for Tier 1 counties with military bases

