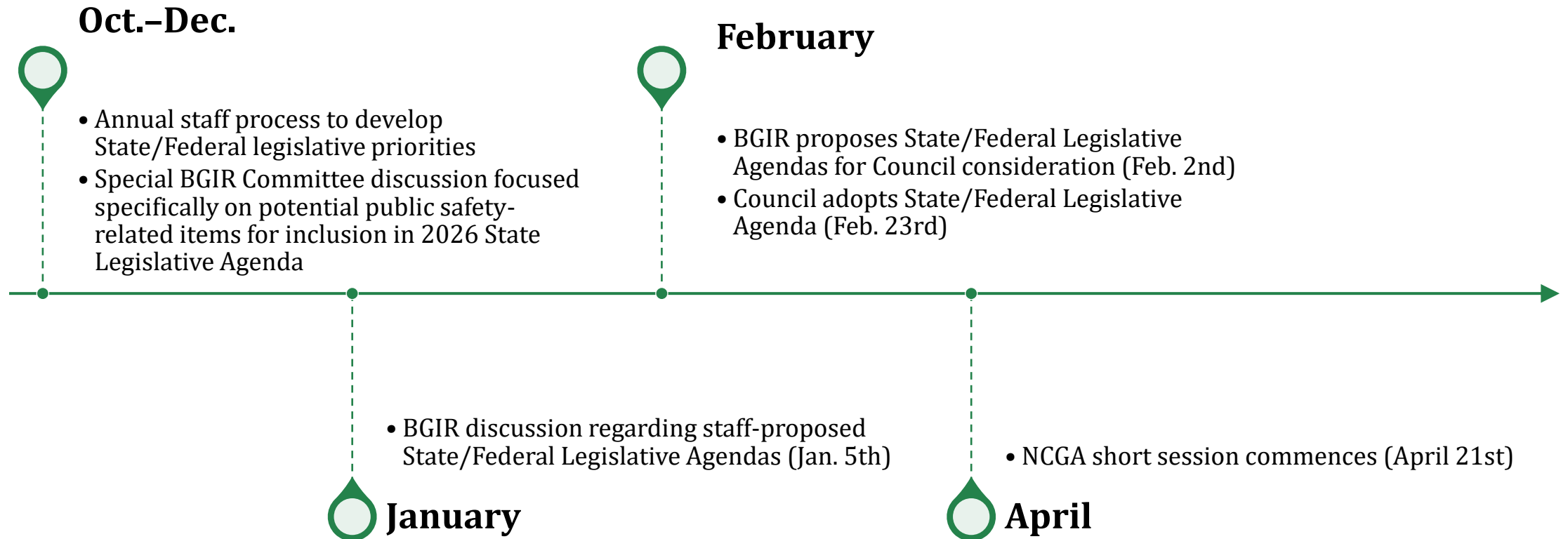


2026 Legislative Agenda Development

BGIR

JANUARY 5, 2026

2026 Legislative Agenda Development Timeline



Development Principles

- Align with core mission, long-term goals, and community benefit.
- Include input from internal and external stakeholders.
- Balance ambition with feasibility and big-picture vision with practical action.
- Use data and evidence to strengthen credibility and demonstrate impact, especially for underserved groups.
- Understand priorities of other jurisdictions, agencies, and state/federal trends. **This year, we are aligned in several areas with partners.**
- Maintain flexibility to adjust to emerging issues, crises, or shifts.

Context

◀ Federal

- Congressional focus will be on the midterm elections
- More in-district and state work periods will be scheduled



◀ State

- Short Session starts April 21
- Designed primarily for budget adjustments and limited policy work—not for rewriting or crafting new legislative proposals
- Budget negotiations continue
- Adjournment by July 1



Proposed State Agenda: Public Safety

◀ **Build on recent state actions by supporting efforts to:**

- Strengthen North Carolina's sentencing guidelines chronic, repeat offenders
- Additional state funding for mental health support
- State support for law enforcement recruitment/retention
- Additional state funding to increase staffing levels for DA's Office, Public Defender's Office, and Courts
- Strengthen required (statutory) qualifications – and pay – for magistrates
- Advocate for certain quality-of-life violations to be prohibited by state statute
- State support to reestablish a local Juvenile Detention Center

Proposed State Agenda

◀ **Planning and Zoning:**

- Support 2025 Senate Bill 587 (Lazzara) to clarify the restrictions on local government initiated down-zonings

◀ **Environment:**

- Support 2025 House Bill 369 (Loftis) that modifies local government authority to implement additional stormwater control measures for preexisting development and redevelopment

◀ **Housing**

- Support House budget provision appropriating funding for the Workforce Housing Loan Program
- Support 2025 Senate Bill 349 (Overcash) increasing homestead thresholds to support adults aging-in-place

Proposed State Agenda

◀ **Mobility and Aviation:**

- Support House and Senate budget provisions appropriating full funding of the NC Airport Improvement Program
- Continue working with the General Assembly and Administration to advance improvements to the surface transportation network for all users and boost the region's economic competitiveness, including through data-driven programs that distribute transportation funding for street maintenance and the state's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Proposed Federal Agenda

◀ **Mobility:**

- Support reauthorization of the surface transportation program

◀ **Aviation:**

- Support federal partner resources for airport security, international arrivals, and air traffic control
- Maintain or enhance levels of Federal Aviation Administration grant funding

◀ **Public Safety:**

- Support greater level of resources for the Federal Emergency Management Program and support reforms to improve disaster preparedness and recovery
- Support increased resources that further initiatives to lower crime, increase public safety, and redeploy resources to areas of highest and best use

Proposed Federal Agenda

◀ Business & Workforce Development:

- **Support initiatives to boost workforce participation and energize economic mobility:**
 - Support reauthorization of the workforce development act
 - Enact federal policies that attract new talent and strengthen immigrant communities
 - Spur economic development and job creation in specific areas, such as Corridors of Opportunity

◀ Housing:

- **Support the production of more low-income and workforce housing:**
 - Reverse recent regulatory changes to the Continuum of Care grants that cap permanent supportive housing at 30%
 - Support reauthorization of HOME Investment Partnership program
 - Support recent efforts to enact comprehensive legislation that expands and preserves housing supply and improves housing affordability

Questions and Discussion