2023

Intergovernmental Relations

STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

MAYOR
Vi Alexander Lyles

MAYOR PRO TEM
Braxton Winston

CITY COUNCIL
Dimple Tansen Ajmera
Dante Anderson
Tariq Bokhari
Edmund H. Driggs
Malcolm Graham
Renee' Johnson
LaWana Mayfield
James Mitchell
Marjorie Molina
Victoria Watlington

CITY MANAGER
Marcus D. Jones

CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE CITY COUNCIL
2022-2023

Vi Alexander Lyles
Mayor
Biography

704.336.2241
mayor@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Braxton Winston
Mayor Pro Tem
At-Large Representative
Biography

704.336.3185
Braxton.Winston@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dimple Tansen Ajmera
Councilmember
At-Large Representative
Biography

704.336.2777
Dimple.Ajmera@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

LaWana Mayfield
Councilmember
At-Large Representative
Biography

704.336.3433
LaWana.Mayfield@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

James Mitchell
Councilmember
At-Large Representative
Biography

704.336.3430
James.Mitchell@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dante Anderson
Councilmember
District 1 Representative
Biography

704.336.4099
Dante.Anderson@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Malcolm Graham
Councilmember
District 2 Representative
Biography

704.336.6105
Malcolm.Graham@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Victoria Watlington
Councilmember
District 3 Representative
Biography

704.336.3435
Victoria.Watlington@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Renee' Johnson
Councilmember
District 4 Representative
Biography

704.336.3436
Renee.Johnson@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Marjorie Molina
Councilmember
District 5 Representative
Biography

704.336.3432
Marjorie.Molina@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Tariq Bokhari
Councilmember
District 6 Representative
Biography

704.336.3431
Tariq.Bokhari@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Edmund H. Driggs
Councilmember
District 7 Representative
Biography

704.432.7077
edriggs@charlottenc.gov
600 E. Fourth St.
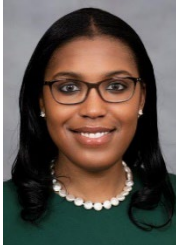Charlotte, NC 28202

2023 MECKLENBURG STATE DELEGATION

37th Senate
Vickie Sawyer (R)

88th House
Mary Belk (D)

103rd House
Laura Budd (D)

38th Senate
Mujtaba A. Mohammed (D)

92nd House
Terry M. Brown, Jr. (D)

104th House
Brandon Lofton (D)

39th Senate
DeAndrea Salvador (D)

98th House
John R. Bradford, III (R)

105th House
Wesley Harris, PhD (D)

40th Senate
Joyce Waddell (D)

99th House
Nasif Majeed (D)
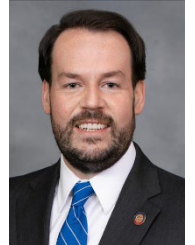
106th House
Carla D. Cunningham (D)

41st Senate
Natasha R. Marcus (D)

100th House
John Autry (D)

107th House
Kelly M. Alexander, Jr. (D)

42nd Senate
Rachel Hunt (D)

101st House
Carolyn G. Logan (D)

112th House
Tricia Ann Cotham (D)

102nd House
Becky Carney (D)
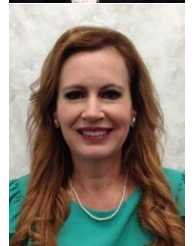
CITY *of* CHARLOTTE

Charlotte
CITY PROFILE

The City of Charlotte, located in Mecklenburg County, is in the Piedmont region of North Carolina and centered between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. Charlotte's location, business-friendly climate, educational and health care resources, and recreational and cultural amenities reinforce its status as a growing regional center in the Southeast.

Charlotte is consistently ranked among the fastest-growing cities in the U.S. with an estimated population of 958,788 and is the most populous city in North Carolina and the 15th largest city in the nation.

This City Profile is a look into Charlotte's high quality of life and the many attractions that continue to bring new

HISTORY AND LOCATION

⇒ Charlotte was incorporated in 1768 and became the county seat in 1774.

⇒ Referred to as the "Queen City", Charlotte earned its name from the German born Queen Charlotte, wife of England's King George III. The county earned its name from Queen Charlotte's birthplace, Mecklenburg, Germany.

⇒ The city presently covers 311.9 square miles of the 546 square miles in Mecklenburg County.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The City of Charlotte has had a Council-Manager form of government since 1929. Policy-making and legislative authority are vested in a governing council consisting of a mayor and 11 additional members elected every two years on a partisan basis. The Mayor and four City Council members are elected at-large by a citywide vote. The remaining seven Council members are elected by district, from voters who reside in each district.

The City Council is responsible for appointing the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, and members of various boards and commissions. City Council enacts ordinances, resolutions, and orders; approves the annual budget; sets the tax rate; and approves the financing of all city operations. The City Manager is responsible for the daily operations of the organization and implementing the policies set by City Council.

Mayor   CM

Council-Manager form of government since 1929

- ✔ Elected every 2 years, in odd-numbered years (2 year terms)
- ✔ Mayor & 4 Council members elected at-large by city-wide vote
- ✔ 7 Council members elected from districts by voters in those districts
- ✔ Concurrent partisan elections

♛ CITY *of* CHARLOTTE

TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION HUB

Location and infrastructure combine with a robust production workforce to make Charlotte an ideal region for transportation, distribution, and logistics operations. The Charlotte region is strategically located between major ports and inland cities and is within a 12-hour drive of 53 percent of the nation's population. Transportation assets in the region include the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, four interstate highways (I-85, I-77, I-485, and I-40), an inland port, and two intermodal facilities. Charlotte is also the center of the country's largest consolidated rail system with two major rail roads, Norfolk Southern Railway and Chessie-Seaboard Merger (CSX) Transportation.

Foundational to the economic success of the Charlotte region, Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) leads the state as the top economic engine among airports, according to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Division of Aviation. For 2021, CLT ranked 6th worldwide for passenger traffic, compared to 18th in 2020.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

Charlotte enjoys a vibrant, active, and highly diversified economy that continuously supports business development and expansion for companies of all sizes. The city has become a key player in attracting new talent and innovative companies while also focusing on supporting the growth of small businesses and startups. Charlotte is a city that works hard and plays even harder, with a booming business landscape that welcomes newcomers into an inclusive and resilient community.

The region's economy, which is the largest in the Carolinas, ranks 23rd in the U.S. for total output and accounts for about 21 percent of the total output of the Carolinas.

Eight Fortune 500 companies are headquartered in Charlotte, including (rank):

- o Bank of America (29)
- o Lowe's (31)
- o Honeywell (94)
- o Truist (119)
- o Duke Energy (126)
- o Nucor (149)
- o Sonic Automotive (308)
- o Brighthouse Financial (353)

Charlotte is consistently recognized for being a top place to live, work, and play:
- o #3 Best Business Climate (Site Selection Magazine, 2021)
- o #5 Hottest Housing Market (Zillow, 2022)
- o #5 Best Quality of Life (Numbeo, 2022, Americas)

More than 1,000 foreign-owned firms regionwide employ more than 75,000 people from 45 different countries.

RECREATIONAL, VISITOR, AND CULTURAL EVENTS

Charlotte's Venues

Charlotte's eight percent hotel/motel and one percent prepared food and beverage taxes have provided a dedicated resource for the purpose of promoting the city as a destination for convention, business, and leisure travel.

Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA), a component unit of the city, focuses on tourism promotions and facility management for venues such as: Bojangles' Coliseum; Charlotte Convention Center; Ovens Auditorium; and Spectrum Center.

Additionally, CRVA operates the NASCAR Hall of Fame complex. The complex includes the NASCAR Hall of Fame; a 150,000 square foot museum; a 102,000 square foot expansion to the Convention Center, including 40,000 square foot ballroom and NASCAR Plaza; and a 19-story, 393,000 square foot Class A office tower.

Activities and Sporting Events

Charlotte hosts a variety of sporting events and tournaments each year, in addition to three major and two minor league sports franchises.

- The Carolina Panthers of the National Football League (NFL) have played in Charlotte for more than 25 years. The Panthers play at Bank of America Stadium, a 74,867-seat stadium in Uptown Charlotte.

- The Charlotte Hornets of the National Basketball Association play in Uptown Charlotte at the Spectrum Center.

- The Charlotte Knights of Minor League Baseball (MiLB), a Triple-A affiliate of the Chicago White Sox, play at the Truist Field in Uptown.

- The Charlotte Checkers of Minor League Hockey, a top-ranked minor league affiliate of the Carolina Hurricanes, play at the Bojangles' Coliseum.

- The Charlotte Football Club of Major League Soccer kicked off its inaugural season in March of 2022.

- Professional soccer with the Charlotte Independence.

- Bank of America Stadium hosts the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) college football championship and the Duke's Mayo Bowl; a post-season college football game featuring a matchup between an ACC and Southeastern Conference (SEC) team.

- The U.S. National Whitewater Center, located on the Catawba River, is the world's largest artificial whitewater river and the U.S. Olympic training site. The Whitewater Center includes 1,300 acres for activities including whitewater rafting, kayaking, mountain biking, rock climbing, and rope courses.
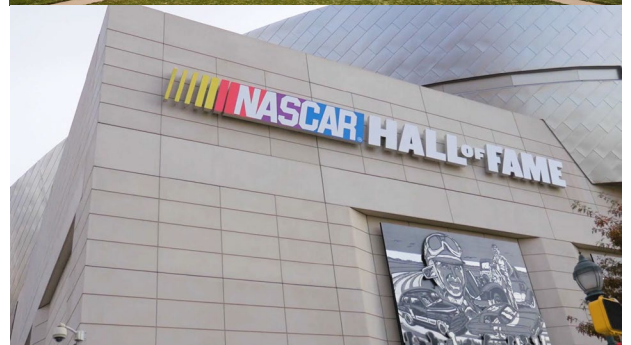
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS)

- CMS is a consolidated city-county public school system with approximately 140,406 students. CMS students are educated in 180 schools that include magnet programs that develop the talents of students who have interests in talents in specific areas.

Higher Education

The greater Charlotte region is home to about three dozen institutions of higher learning, including the state's fourth-largest university, the state's biggest community college, and a premier culinary school.

- **University of North Carolina at Charlotte**, a public urban research institution offers bachelor, graduate, and doctoral degrees through eight professional colleges.

- **Central Piedmont Community College** offers nearly 300 associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs at six campuses within Mecklenburg County.

- **Davidson College,** a liberal arts college in Davidson, North Carolina, serves nearly 2,000 students.

- **Queens University** offers 42 majors, 63 minors, and numerous graduate and certificate programs.

- **Johnson & Wales University's** Charlotte campus, home to more than 1,600 students, offers degrees ranging from baking and pastry arts, to fashion merchandising and retailing, to corporate accounting and financial analysis.

- **Johnson C. Smith University** is a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) offering 26 undergraduate or graduate degrees.

- **Pfeiffer University**'s Charlotte campus offers adult learners the opportunity to earn both undergraduate and graduate degrees.

- **Wake Forest University Charlotte Center** continues to have a strong graduate school presence in Charlotte with several top- ranked MBA programs. In March of 2021, Wake Forest University announced, in collaboration with Atrium Health, its plans to build or establish a Wake Forest School of Medicine Charlotte campus.

- **Carolinas College of Health Sciences** is a non-profit public college focused on the health sciences and is located both online and with a physical campus in Charlotte.

- **Northeastern University's** Charlotte campus has offered graduate programs in uptown Charlotte since 2011.

HEALTHCARE

Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are served by a number of healthcare providers ranging from nationally recognized hospital systems to specialized practices.

- **Atrium Health** operates or manages more than 40 hospitals and more than 900 care locations across the Carolinas and Georgia. Atrium Health will partner with **Wake Forest University** to open a four-year medical school in Charlotte in 2024.

- **Novant Health** is a four-state integrated network of physician clinics, outpatient centers, and hospitals. With a 622-bed medical center and more than 700 physicians on staff, Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center is one of the largest medical facilities in the region.

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

With an estimated population of 958,788, Charlotte is the most populous city in North Carolina and the 15th largest city in the nation. Charlotte has been one of the fastest growing cities in the country, with an average annual growth rate of over 1.7 percent during the past 10 years. Many factors have attracted new residents and businesses to the region, including diverse employment opportunities, a relatively low-cost of living, and the city's unique character. Charlotte is expected to continue to experience a high growth rate. Based on current projections, Charlotte is expected to add over 385,000 new residents over the next 20 years. The charts on this page provide an overview of Charlotte's population growth and current demographics.

Population Within the City Limits and Population Growth Rate

Race
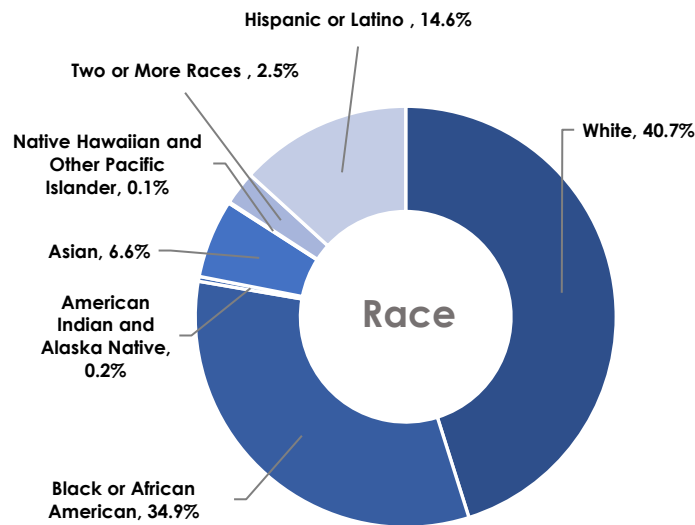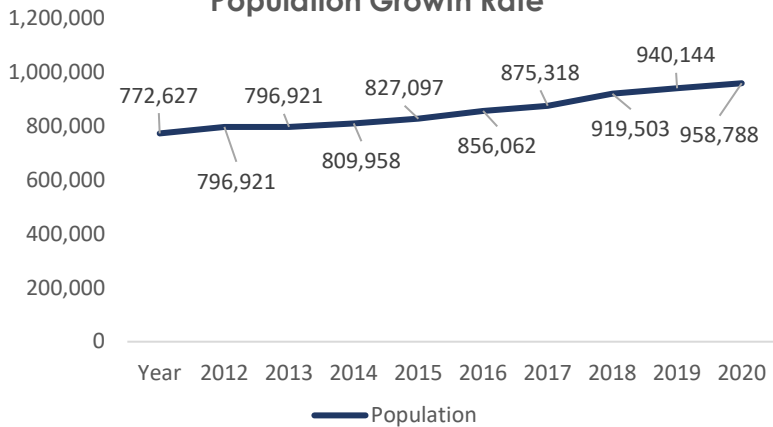
Ethnicity: Based on 2020 American Community Survey Data
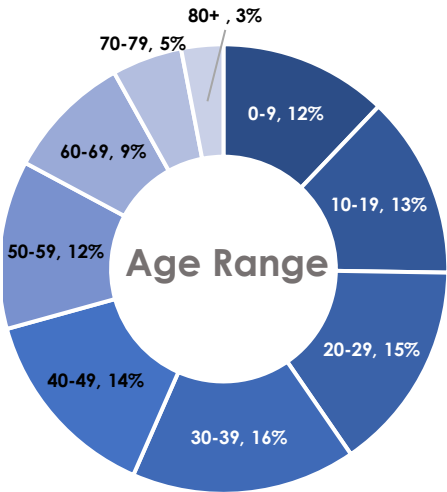
Age Range

Age Range: Based on 2020 American Community Survey Data

CITY SERVICES AND AMENITIES

The City of Charlotte appropriates approximately $2.7 billion in operating and capital funds to provide the community with exceptional services and amenities. The following is FY 2021 data for some of the many city-provided services and amenities.

7 NEW COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1566 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS FUNDED

373 FIRE CALLS FOR SERVICE

1,002 POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE

8,723,808 TRANSIT BOARDINGS (BUS, RAIL, SPECIAL TRANSPORT, VANPOOL)

1,300+ DAILY AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

109,700,000 GALLONS OF DRINKING WATER TREATED AND DELIVERED

87,200,000 GALLONS OF WASTEWATER COLLECTED AND TREATED

45,015+ CURBSIDE HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING TRASH PICKUP

1,425 SERVICE REQUESTS ENTERED BY CHARMECK 311 PER DAY

22,921,625 TOTAL PAGE VIEWS (CHARLOTTENC.GOV)

CITY *of* **CHARLOTTE**

CHARLOTTE
2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
FEBRUARY 13, 2023

Mobility: Continue to work with regional stakeholders and the General Assembly to secure mobility legislation that:
- Enables the voters of Mecklenburg County to authorize the Mecklenburg County Commission to levy dedicated, stable, and permanent sources of revenues for regional and local roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and public transportation systems
- Enables local governments to issue revenue bonds for roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and public transportation systems projects that would be backed by new and existing local sources of revenue

Safe Charlotte: Support policies and increased resources that further initiatives to lower crime, increase public safety, and redeploy resources to areas of highest and best use, and which serve to increase public confidence in the public safety and judicial systems
- Authorize police departments to create non-sworn units to investigate non-lethal traffic accidents
- Support legislation to strengthen accountability and reliability in the pretrial release system

Affordable Housing: Build affordable housing and provide opportunities that align with creating thriving neighborhoods and mitigating the impacts of displacement and gentrification
- Support increasing the Homestead Act threshold to support older adults aging in place

Infrastructure & Sustainability: Continue working with General Assembly and Administration to advance the city's infrastructure and sustainability plans related to aviation, surface transportation, sustainability & resilience, digital inclusion, and environment
- Support the data-driven programs that distribute transportation funding for the NC Airport Improvement, Powell Bill, and State Maintenance Assistance Programs
- Support smart policies that advance next generation personal and commercial mobility systems
- Support polices and funding to transition fleets to no-emission vehicles and make buildings more energy efficient
- Support policies that advance digital inclusion
- Support policies that advance clean water and drinking water initiatives

2023 State Legislative Agenda

Issue: Mobility

Position: Continue to work with regional stakeholders and the General Assembly to secure mobility legislation

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Background: The vision of the City of Charlotte is to provide safe and equitable mobility options for all travelers regardless of age, income, ability, race, where they live, or how they choose to travel. An integrated system of transit and tree-shaded bikeways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, and streets will support a sustainable, connected, prosperous, and innovative network that connects all Charlotteans to each other, jobs, housing, amenities, goods, services, and the region. We are at a critical moment in our history with the potential to fundamentally change our mobility future. The region's mobility needs are both increasing and changing.   Doing nothing will have lasting impact on our economic competitiveness, quality of life, and upward mobility, especially for our most vulnerable communities. Our current level of mobility investment is unable to keep up with our changing needs and without a significant increase, our needed transportation investment will be delayed by decades. A commitment to a significant mobility investment program with a dedicated source of local funding will position the city and the region to access federal infrastructure funding for the next two decades. The city and region should be prepared to take advantage of these conditions. The city continues to work with regional stakeholders to reach consensus on a plan to address regional mobility needs that can be taken to the General Assembly for its consideration. The city and its partners will continue communicating with state legislators while efforts to reach regional consensus continues.

Voter Approval: The city supports asking the voters to authorize the levying of dedicated, stable, and permanent sources of revenues for regional and local roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and public transportation systems. The mobility needs of the region are expressed through various long-range plans including the roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, and public transportation plans adopted by local governments and state agencies. In order to build-out these plans, additional sources of dedicated, stable, and permanent revenues are needed.

Revenue Bonds: The city is working with its partners to identify the revenues needed that will enable the local governments to match federal funds available for these types of projects. In order to support debt service issued for these types of projects, revenues that can be pledged as collateral to lower overall debt service costs are preferable.

CHARLOTTE

2023 State Legislative Agenda

Issue: Safe Charlotte

Position: Support policies and increased resources that further initiatives to lower crime, increase public safety, and redeploy resources to areas of highest and best use, and which serve to increase public confidence in the public safety and judicial systems

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Background: The City of Charlotte continues to implement the Safe Charlotte Plan that was adopted in 2020. The Plan addresses alternatives to violence, conversion of low-risk sworn officer duties to non-uniform units, studying the unique needs of communities, mental health and homeless response, youth program evaluation, and enhancement of recruitment efforts.

Civilian Traffic Crash Investigators: The city supports legislation authorizing police departments to convert low-risk sworn duties to non-uniform units, such as investigations of non-lethal traffic accidents by trained civilians. This will enable departments to redeploy sworn officers to their highest and best use, such as response to violent crimes. Such programs have been in effect in Fayetteville and Wilmington for several years and have proven successful. The City is partnering with the NC Association of Chiefs of Police, NC League of Municipalities, and other cities supportive of the concept.

Pretrial Release: The city supports legislation bringing more accountability and reliability to the pretrial release system by specifying certain crimes where only a Judge can determine pretrial release conditions for a defendant, and whether pretrial release is even warranted. Currently, persons charged with serious crimes such as murder, rape and sexual offenses, burglary, and arson can be released prior to trial and not ever see a Judge. Also, some persons are charged with new serious offenses while on pretrial release. Release conditions for these types of cases, if even warranted, should be set by a Judge. If a Judge does not believe release is warranted, then Judges should be able to act on that determination in order to increase confidence and accountability in the system. Enactment of these measures will raise confidence in the pretrial release system among crime victims and their families. The city is partnering with the NC Conference of District Attorneys and NC Association of Chiefs of Police on this initiative.

2023 State Legislative Agenda

Issue: Affordable Housing

Position: Build affordable housing and provide opportunities that align with creating thriving neighborhoods and mitigating the impacts of displacement and gentrification

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Background: The City of Charlotte continues to implement the Charlotte Housing Framework, which was adopted in August 2018 to address shortage of affordable housing in the City that now stands at over 30,000 units. The Framework is built upon the three pillars of expanding the supply of affordable housing, preserving the supply of affordable housing, and supporting self-sufficiency efforts. The Framework was the result of nearly two years of work that began with the October 2016 City Council letter to city residents affirming leadership in three key areas including access to safe, quality, and affordable housing. In November 2018, 2020, and 2022, the voters of the city expressed their approval for expanding and preserving the supply of affordable housing by passing $50 million bond referendums by strong margins. Furthermore, private, and philanthropic sector partners have contributed another $95 million in land and financial commitments that increase the amount to address affordable housing in the city. This funding and other resources will be used for all three pillars in order to address the 30,000-plus unit shortage of affordable housing. Even though it has raised considerable funds for this purpose, the city needs still additional legislative authority and/or financial resources from the State to address the shortage of affordable housing.

Aging-in-Place: The city supports legislation that increases the property tax thresholds used to determine eligibility for the elderly or disabled tax exclusion program. This will enable more elderly or disabled persons to continue living in their homes and community safely, independently, and comfortably. In 2017, the median income for the elderly in the US was 40.9% less than individuals below 65 years of age. Due to increasing property values in Mecklenburg County, various groups have looked at increasing the thresholds to qualify for the tax relief programs offered through the elderly or disabled property tax homestead exclusion program. The city is partnering with Mecklenburg County, who administers the program on behalf of the State of North Carolina, Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition, North Carolina Association of Assessing Officers, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and other stakeholders.

CHARLOTTE℠

2023 State Legislative Agenda

Issue: Infrastructure & Sustainability

Position: Continue working with General Assembly and Administration to advance the city's infrastructure and sustainability plans related to aviation, surface transportation, sustainability & resilience, digital inclusion, and environment

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Background: The City of Charlotte is committed to advancing strategic priorities related to aviation, mobility, sustainability and resilience, digital inclusion, and environment matters. All of these plans serve to make Charlotte a better place to live, work, and play.

Aviation: The City of Charlotte supports the NC Airport Improvement Program that provides funding to the ten commercial service airports in the State for capital improvements and debt service. The program is funded at $100 million annually of which CLT receives approximately $36 million in State FY 2022-2023. CLT has utilized this funding for gateway land acquisitions, debt service, charter terminal expansion and renovation, and Phase II of the Concourse A Expansion. The use of the funds for these purposes enables CLT to advance critical airfield improvement and terminal projects that increase capacity to bring in more flights, especially those from other North Carolina commercial airports. This is a mutually beneficial outcome for all commercial service airports in the State of North Carolina.

Surface Transportation: The city supports the data-driven programs that distribute transportation to local governments, including the Powell Bill program of state-aid for local road maintenance, and State Maintenance Assistance Program of state-aid for maintenance of public transportation assets. The Powell Bill program was enacted in 1950 and provides financial assistance to municipalities for municipally-maintained streets. The State Maintenance Assistance Program for Public Transportation was established by the NC General Assembly in 1994. The city supports smart policies that advance next generation personal and commercial mobility systems. The use of these systems can serve to save lives, improve mobility, promote sustainability, and increase efficiency and productivity in surface transportation systems.

Sustainability & Resilience, Digital Inclusion, and Clean Water and Drinking Water: The city supports policies and funding to transition vehicle fleets to no-emission vehicles and make buildings more energy efficient, and advance digital inclusion, clean water, and drinking water initiatives. The State of North Carolina will be receiving federal funds for local government to access to achieve these objectives. By serving as sub-grantee, the city can access federal funding to accomplish these objectives. The city respectfully requests the support of the Delegation when making grant requests of executive branch agencies.