

Mayors Meet in Asheville

The N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition held its fall meeting in Asheville over two days in September. Members used the opportunity to share best practices, celebrate successes and plan for the upcoming legislative session.

The highlight of the meeting was the Coalition's work to build its advocacy agenda for the 2011 General Assembly Session. The adopted agenda is focused on crime, transportation, biotechnology and local revenues.

The mayors focused on the need to protect local revenues, stating that reductions in city budgets and services have already been made.

"We've tightened our budget belts," said Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy.



Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton speaks to the Metro Mayors at the Dinner and Legislative Awards Presentation during the Fall Meeting.

The mayors also emphasized the importance of North Carolina's cities to the entire state. "As our health goes, so goes the health of the state economically," said Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt.

During the meeting, the Metro Mayors had the opportunity to hear from special



State Treasurer Janet Cowell speaks to the members of the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition at its Fall Meeting in Asheville.

guests Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton and State Treasurer Janet Cowell.

Transportation continues to be a top issue for the Coalition. "When companies come here they want to be able to move their goods, move people around and we want to make sure we are doing all the things that we can both

with the state and locally in a partnership to make that happen," said Durham Mayor Bill Bell.

Members received an update on transportation reform and prioritization from Jim Trogdon, chief operating officer for the N.C. Department of Transportation. In addition, Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo led a best practices session entitled, "Keys to successful working relationships between cities and N.C. Department of Transportation Division Offices."

The mayors also received a tour of Pack Square, Asheville's new 6.5-acre city center park. Planned and realized through the work of community and business leaders, elected officials and citizens, the park is a testament to the power of partnerships.

"Metropolitanization" of North Carolina

By Ferrell Guillory, Director, Program on Public Life, UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication

Thirty-eight years ago, the General Assembly arrived in Raleigh facing what was then delicately described as "the new situation" in North Carolina. James E. Holshouser Jr., had won the governorship, becoming the first Republican to occupy the office in 70 years. Democrats, as usual for much of the 20th Century, held solid legislative majorities.

Now, the General Assembly has arrived in Raleigh for its 2011 "long" session with a "new situation" in reverse. A Democrat, Bev Perdue, enters her third year in the governor's office, while Republicans have won majorities in both the House and Senate for the first time in more than a century. What's more, the governor and legislature face a budget shortfall of uncommon depth, around 20 percent of the state's general fund.

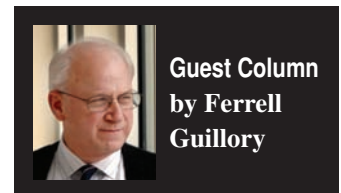
Over the past four decades, North Carolina has grown from a state of 5.08 million to 9.54 million people. With that robust population growth has come a decisive shift in North Carolina's landscape, from a spread-out state of small farms, small factories and small cities and town, to a state increasingly defined and driven by a metropolitan economy and culture.

It is important, therefore, for city, county and state officials to understand how this "metropolitanization" shapes the current legislature,

and for legislators to understand how the state's major metropolitan areas shape contemporary North Carolina. This short essay will attempt to provide data and analysis that goes beyond the initial commentary surrounding the new General Assembly and that stimulates dialogue crucial to policy making.

As an analytical device, I focused on the 15 counties with the most ballots cast in the 2008 presidential and statewide elections. Those 15 counties accounted for 53 percent of total votes in North Carolina, meaning more voters showed up in them than in the remaining 85 counties combined.

And the 15 can be arrayed in three tiers: Wake and Mecklenburg, both with more than 400,000 voters,



Guest Column
 by Ferrell
 Guillory

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Changes and Challenges

The 2011 session of the N.C. General Assembly will be marked by changes and by challenges. There will be new leadership in both the House and the Senate. The state is facing a projected \$3.6 billion shortfall in the state budget, and many of our cities continue to face tough fiscal situations. The economic recovery is coming slowly, and unemployment is still close to 10 percent.

To be certain, these are difficult times. As we move into a new decade, North Carolina and our cities are facing real challenges. Investments to strengthen infrastructure, improve education, combat crime and attract jobs and industry are critical to building a strong future for our citizens. Our cities are at the forefront of these challenges, and we are critical drivers in our state's economy and well-being.

Our leadership during this legislative session is critical. Competing interests from every corner of the state and every issue are going to be fighting for dollars and attention. Now, more than ever, real, thoughtful leadership is required. Our Coalition will be working with the N.C.



Message from
the Chairman

Mayor
Bill Bell

League of Municipalities and leaders from across the state to provide that leadership and to support legislative and administrative officials. Our new advocacy goals will be the roadmap that guides our efforts, and it will keep us focused on the issues that matter most in our cities.

Perhaps our greatest – and most important – challenge will be to protect local revenues and to defend against attempts to shift state responsibilities to local governments without appropriate funding or statutory authority to allow local governments the authority to obtain the needed funding. At the local level, we have already shaved our budgets and consolidated services. Saddling us with new responsibilities or depriving us of revenue would have consequences that would be felt around the state. While we must all tighten our belts and act responsibly during these tough times, our cities cannot shoulder an unfair portion of the burden.

As the mayors of the state's largest cities, our perspectives and experiences are valued in Raleigh. We have the reputation and respect to be the voice of our cities and our citizens. Working with the N.C. League of Municipalities we will fulfill that responsibility; we will be calling on our network of members and allies to assist us in educating legislators about the issues facing our cities. Together, we will face these changes and challenges, seeking new opportunities for success.

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constitute the first tier. The second tier, including counties with more than 100,000 votes cast, includes, in order, Guilford, Forsyth, Durham, Cumberland, Buncombe and New Hanover. In the third tier are Union, Gaston, Cabarrus, Pitt, Orange, Iredell and Johnston.

Now let's pause to deal with some obvious questions: Why use the 2008 election rather than the most recent 2010 election? Because the 4.35 million voter-turnout in 2008 far exceeded the 2.7 million turnout in 2010. Why use votes cast rather than general population? Because voting matters, and it signifies a county's political strength. Orange ranks in the top 15 in voting, but not in the top 20 in population. Davidson is 14th in population but ranked 17th in 2008 voters. Still, the top 15 counties in 2008 voting offer a handy way to assess the representation of metro areas within the North Carolina legislature.

I divided all legislative districts into two categories: metro and non-metro. House and Senate districts with territory completely or partially in the top 15 counties were categorized as "metro." Districts outside the top 15 were listed as non-metro. (I acknowledge that this process produces anomalies: House 96, totally within Catawba County, becomes non-metro, while House 92, that stretching across Iredell, Surry and Yadkin, becomes "metro." Overall, I think, the anomalies mostly wash out.)

By this general calculation, the Senate has 30 metro and 20 non-metro districts. Republicans hold 16 of the metro and 15 of the non-metro districts. Democrats now hold 14 metro and only five non-metro Senate districts.

The House, with more compact districts than the Senate, has 64 metro districts that include some or all of the top 15. It has 56 non-metro districts that do not include the top 15. In the House, the GOP has 29 metro and 38 non-metro districts. Democrats have 35 metro and 17 non-metro districts. An unaffiliated legislator represents a non-metro district.

Out of this rather crude - but, I think, telling - construct arises several general findings about the characteristics of metropolitan representation. Clearly, a majority of both House and Senate members have constituents who live in metro areas and whose futures depend on the continued health of the state's most powerful places of economic prowess. The Metropolitan Mayors Coalition and other local-government groups can call on and appeal to a large bloc of "metro" legislators, across party lines.

But, of course, the bloc is neither uniform nor unified. Metropolitan areas combine core cities and sprawling suburbs, plus outlying exurbs and patches of rural land; they do not respect old municipal and county boundaries. Metro areas have their internal frictions, differences of interests and viewpoints sometimes defined by old boundaries. Metro areas send both

Metro Mayors Set Agenda for General Assembly Session

At their fall meeting, the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition adopted an advocacy agenda that will drive efforts during the 2011 General Assembly Session. The agenda is focused on issues that impact North Carolina's cities and their future -- crime, transportation, biotechnology and local revenues.

Specifically, the mayors will work to:

- Defend against attempts to shift state responsibilities to local governments and protect local revenues;
- Support the needs of the Justice System;
- Support efforts to reduce gang violence;
- Support efforts to advance North Carolina's biotech industry and grow related jobs;
- Preserve local government ability to engage and lead in communication public enterprises;
- Support adding more revenues to the Mobility Fund and set asides for expanding Powell Bill with a new allocation based on lane miles and a set aside for Interstate Maintenance;
- Defend existing statutory roadway responsibilities between the State and local government; and
- Continue to improve the relationship between the N.C. Department of Transportation and local governments.

Mayors, Coalition staff and N.C. League of Municipalities staff will work with legislators, administration officials and elected officials to advance the agenda. Both members and staff will meet with legislators from across the state to educate them about the agenda and to promote legislation related to its goals.

Republicans and Democrats to Raleigh where they often divide along city-suburb, Democratic-Republican lines. The 2010 elections have highlighted an emerging trend, potentially another shift away from long-standing North Carolina patterns. The Republican Party has picked up rural and non-metro legislative seats that used to serve as bastions of Democratic legislative strength. Yes, Republicans maintain a strong presence in metro areas, especially suburbs and exurbs, but the GOP now has more of a non-metro tilt than the Democrats.

The center of gravity in the Democratic Party, meanwhile, now appears in the core counties of the state's major metro areas. The Democratic legislative minority has a more of a metro than a rural tilt. This development is consistent with evidence from the 2008 elections: President Obama carried

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Metro Mayors In Action



Members of the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition and attendees discuss gang prevention at the Gangs Stakeholder Group meeting held on September 15.



Salisbury Mayors Susan Kluttz, Gastonia Mayor Jennifer Stultz, and Greenville Mayor Pat Dunn at the Gangs Stakeholder Group meeting on September 15.



Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines, Gastonia Mayor Jennifer Stultz, Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz and Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx at the White House during the U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting.



Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, Burlington Mayor Ronnie Wall, Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz, Concord Mayor Scott Padgett and Durham Mayor Bill Bell tour Pack Square Park in Asheville.



Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz, Gastonia Mayor Jennifer Stultz, Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines and Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx at the White House during the U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting.

79th Annual Conference of Mayors

The 79th Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors Conference was held in Washington, D.C., January 19-21. The following North Carolina Metro Mayors attended: Anthony Foxx - Charlotte, Bill Bell - Durham, Scott Padgett - Concord, Susan Kluttz - Salisbury, Bill Saffo - Wilmington, David Combs - Rocky Mount, Mark Kleinschmidt - Chapel Hill, Allen Joines - Winston-Salem and Bobby Kilgore - Monroe.

The following comments are excerpts of reflections from some of the mayors who attended:

Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, *Chapel Hill*

"In addition to attending the regular conference sessions and committee meetings, we had the opportunity to visit the White House and to hear President Obama speak on issues germane to cities as well as national issues. I also had an opportunity to meet one on one with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce of Commerce (EDA) John Fernandez to discuss EDA opportunities for my city. Additionally, I, along with Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker and Durham Mayor Bill Bell, participated in a meeting with the Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff and his staff, TTA General Manager David King and TTA General Counsel Wib Gully to give a status on the Proposed Light Rail System for the three-county area as well as to receive their comments."

Mayor Allen Joines, *Winston-Salem*

"In addition to attending the various sessions and committee meetings, I attended a reception sponsored by the North Carolina Society for the North Carolina Legislative Delegation. While at this event I was able to talk with five of our representatives. I was also honored to have been invited by Secretary of State Clinton to attend a state luncheon in honor of Chinese President Jintao. I understand that I was invited because of the strong Sister City relationship Winston-Salem has with the Yangpu District of Shanghai."

Mayor Scott Padgett, *Concord*

"The entire conference was very meaningful and well organized. The mayor of Tucson gave us a minute-by-minute account of the day Congresswoman Giffords and others were shot. As he was giving us the account there was absolute silence as each mayor was contemplating the gravity of the situation and thinking, 'what if this happened in my city?' The reality is that as a mayor you never know what will happen and you have to be ready. 'I spent most of one day on Capitol Hill visiting the offices of Congressmen Watt and Kissell and Senators Burr and Hagan. My purpose was to advocate for priorities of the city of Concord and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. I enjoyed meeting with Congressman Kissell in person for more than 30 minutes."

Mayor Jennie Stultz, *Gastonia*

"One of the highlights of the conference for me was the recognition of the 50th Anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's inauguration. Caroline Kennedy addressed the mayors and challenged them to take her father's message, 'Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country,'



Gastonia Mayor Jennie Stultz's Youth Leadership Council made the trip to Washington and met Caroline Kennedy.

to a new level by asking youth, 'Ask what you can do for your community.'" My Mayor's Youth Leadership Council traveled to D.C. and had the opportunity to meet Caroline Kennedy, have a private nighttime tour of the Capitol and enjoy an in-depth tour of our nation's capitol. The youth were thrilled to be able to stand on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives and stand at the podium where President Obama would make his State of the Union Address five days later."

Mayor Susan Kluttz, *Salisbury*

"The 2011 winter meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington was, as usual, an outstanding event. Highlights for me were the meeting at the White House with the President and the observance of the 50th anniversary of JFK's inauguration. Spending the day hearing from Caroline Kennedy and the evening at Kennedy Center commemorating President Kennedy's life were very touching to all of those whose lives he touched and inspired. I do believe that no other state in the nation has the statewide organization that we do for its mayors. It is obvious at these annual meetings that the N.C. Metro Mayors Coalition has made a tremendous difference in bringing our mayors, and consequently our cities, closer and helping us be more productive together."

The summer meeting of U.S. Conference of Mayors will be held in Baltimore, Md., June 17-21. Don't miss this opportunity to partner with mayors across the country to endorse and support issues related to cities. You are sure to be amazed at the commonalities we all share!

In Wake of Tucson Tragedy, Mayors Unite

During the recent meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup briefed attendees on the tragic January 8 shooting that took place in his city and its aftermath. He proposed that the mayors of America's cities come together and sign a civility accord.

"Why don't we come together, why don't we bring the mayors together, why don't we start talking about how we can treat each other better, how we can be kinder to each other, how can we care about each other," Mayor Walkup said.

Conference leaders worked with Walkup to draft the U.S. Conference of Mayors Civility Accord, which states: "We should use this event as a point of departure, to recommit ourselves to building a more civil society in which each person is respected and public and political discourse aimed at the betterment of our nation and its people and not the destruction of those with whom we disagree." Signatories pledge to restore civility by committing to the following principles:

- respect the right of all Americans to hold different opinions;
- avoid rhetoric intended to humiliate, de-legitimize or question the patriotism of those whose opinions are different from ours;
- strive to understand differing perspectives;
- choose words carefully;
- speak truthfully without accusation and avoid distortion; and
- speak out against violence, prejudice, and incivility in all of their forms, whenever and wherever they occur.

Nearly 150 mayors signed the Accord during the Winter Meeting, including North Carolina Mark Kleinschmidt (Chapel Hill), Scott Padgett (Concord), Jennifer Stultz (Gastonia), David Combs (Rocky Mount) and Susan Kluttz (Salisbury). Mayors who were unable to attend the meeting and those who were there but did not have an opportunity to sign the Accord are encouraged to do so. To sign the Civility Accord, please visit <http://usmayors.org/civilityaccord>. Please note, only mayors may sign the Accord.

City News

Charlotte Launches App for Municipal Services

The city of Charlotte has launched “My-Charlotte,” a mobile application for wireless smart phones that allows users to access municipal services on the go. The first iteration of the application is available only on the Apple iPhone, but the city plans to expand into other mobile devices such as Android and BlackBerry in early 2011. The My-Charlotte application allows users to obtain flight and parking information at Charlotte Douglas International Airport, search traffic accident locations from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, download the CATS mobile application for transit information, access services via 311 and report graffiti, potholes and other neighborhood nuisances.

Concord Police Use Technology to Keep Streets Safe

The Concord Police Department has launched tip411, an Internet-based tool that enables the public to text message an anonymous tip to police, and lets the police respond back, creating a two-way anonymous “chat.” Anyone with a cell phone can now send an anonymous tip to Concord Police by texting the word CONCORDPD and the tip information to 847411 (tip411). Anonymous web tips can also be submitted right from the Police Department’s page on the city website. All identifying information is removed before the Police Department sees the message, so there is no way to identify the sender.

Greenville Wins Housing Award

Nathaniel Village, an apartment community for families initiated by the city of Greenville and developed by the Landmark Group Housing, received a Housing North Carolina Award from the N.C. Housing Finance Agency. Nathaniel Village is part of an initiative spearheaded by Greenville to revitalize its downtown area and address housing needs in partnership with the city’s Redevelopment Commission and an advocacy group called “Uptown Greenville.”

ABB Picks Huntersville for New Plant

ABB, a leader in power and automation technologies, selected Huntersville as the site for a new manufacturing facility, creating more than 100 jobs. The new plant will manufacture high-voltage power cables for use in AC and DC transmission lines. ABB, headquartered in Cary, already employs more than 770 people statewide in manufacturing and other facilities.

Three N.C. Cities Rank as Technology-Advanced

Winston-Salem, Charlotte and High Point ranked among the 10 most technology-advanced cities of their size in America by the Center for Digital Government. The annual study ranks the use of information technology by local governments. Winston-Salem ranked fifth among cities with populations of 125,000 to 249,999. Charlotte ranked fourth among cities with populations of 250,000 or more, and High Point ranked fifth among cities with populations from 75,000 to 124,999.

Salisbury Profiled in Public Management Magazine

The city of Salisbury was profiled in a cover story in ICMA’s *Public Management Magazine* entitled “A Customer Service Intervention in Local Government.” The article describes how Salisbury took the results of a citizen survey and implemented changes to make customer service as the top priority across all city departments.

Durham Named Best Community for Young People

The city of Durham was named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by the America’s Promise Alliance, the nation’s largest partnership organization dedicated to youth and children. The designation recognizes those communities that make youth a priority by implementing programs that help keep children in school and prepare them for college and the 21st century workforce.

Fayetteville, Raleigh-Cary Rank High in Economic Index

Fayetteville and Raleigh-Cary ranked in the top 25 in the Milken Institute’s annual “Best-Performing Cities Index.” The index ranks U.S. metropolitan areas by how well they are creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth. The components include job, wage and salary, and technology growth. In most years, these give a good indication of the underlying structural performance of regional economics.

Cary Creates LED Street Light Project

The town of Cary has partnered with Progress Energy Carolinas for the town’s first Light Emitting Diode (LED) Street Light Project. Funded entirely by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, 34 LED fixtures will either replace less-efficient fixtures or increase visibility in areas throughout Cary. Cary is the first municipality to work with Progress Energy under its customer-owned option where the Town purchases two types of LED lights and Progress Energy installs the approved fixtures on utility-owned poles. With this project, the town anticipates saving 40-60 percent more energy and more than \$5,000 per year in energy costs.

Asheville Receives Federal Grant

The city of Asheville was among 62 nationwide recipients of sustainable community grant funding stemming from a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The city will receive \$850,000 in TIGER II Planning Grant funds to further plans for its East of the Riverway Sustainable Multimodal Neighborhood initiative, part of a push for comprehensive housing, economic development and multimodal transportation in the city’s river district.

Accolades

- Chapel Hill was named one of the Best Places to Live by *Money Magazine*.
- Fayetteville ranked second in the nation for increase in average income in 2009.
- Burlington Mayor Ronnie Wall was recognized as one of the Triad’s Most Influential people for 2010 by *The Triad Business Journal*.
- The Raleigh/Cary Metro Area was named the #3 metro area for job growth over the last decade by *Newsweek*.
- Goldsboro Mayor Al King received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Downtown Goldsboro Development Corporation.
- Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful received a President’s Circle Award from Keep America Beautiful for the eighth year in a row.
- High Point’s Human Relations Department received the National League of Cities Cultural Diversity Award for the High Point Student Human Relations Commission program.
- Carrboro is one of 11 municipalities in North Carolina awarded grants to promote active lifestyles in their communities and influence state policy as it relates to physical activity and health.
- Greensboro and Winston-Salem were among nine local governments designated as Citizen-Engaged Communities for 2010-2012 by Public Technology Institute (PTI).

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North Carolina in large measure by winning 334,000 more votes in the Triangle, Triad and the Charlotte regions than Democrat John Kerry had four years earlier.

In addition to charting North Carolina trends in my work in the UNC Program on Public Life, I am also a “senior fellow” at MDC, the nonprofit research organization in Chapel Hill, which issued a three-part State of the South report over the past year. The concluding observations draw from my work on The State of the South reports.

In a recent roundtable conversation at the Triangle Community Foundation in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina, I heard an employee of Raleigh city government, newly arrived from another larger city, observe, “Raleigh is trying to be a small city when it’s not anymore.” Indeed, the question is whether North Carolina metros will act as the mature, muscular regions they have indeed become. Metros present political, civic and business leaders with a daunting array of policy challenges.

If we have grown more dependent on metro areas, how do we make them support North Carolina’s future? What steps do we take to foster civic cohesion threatened by the divide among rich, middle-class and poor? How do we govern, in a democratic, participatory fashion, metros that sprawl across time-honored jurisdictional lines? A related question has to do with how to promote a stronger “civic culture” in hard-charging metros filled with a mixture of recent arrivals and long-time residents.

Our most recent State of the South report drew insights from The State of Metropolitan America report of the venerable Brookings Institution on Washington. “Especially in light of the deep fiscal crisis facing states and local governments,” the Brookings scholars write, “the lines between cities and suburbs-and the long, fruitless history of battles and mistrust between them-must be transcended, in all types of metropolitan areas.”

Keeping our principal economic engines vital and livable will require the best efforts of government, business and civic leaders. Finding answers will require the best persistent thinking in our universities and research centers. Now that the General Assembly has entered a new “new situation” following a historic partisan shift, it is crucial that state legislators understand more fully North Carolina’s historic shift from a largely rural to a more metropolitan society.

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