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CHOWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EDENTON-CHOWAN SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

 **Chowan County Board of Commissioners and Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Joint Resolution Supporting a Statewide Referendum on a Bond Issue for School Facility Needs**

***Chowan County Board of Commissioners***

*Jeff Smith*

*Chairman*

*Greg Bonner*

*Vice-Chair*

*Ron Cummings*

*Don Faircloth*

*Patti Kersey*

*Dr. Ellis Lawrence*

*John Mitchener*

*Kevin Howard*

*County Manager*

***Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education***

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*Ricky Browder*

*Gil Burroughs*

*Paul Clifton*

*Glorious Elliott*

*Joan White*

*Dr. Rob Jackson*

*Superintendent*

**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 one hundred and eighteen new schools are needed across North Carolina with fifty needed immediately and sixty-eight 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,** a legislative priority of the North Carolina School Boards Association is to support legislation to provide a significant one-time infusion of dollars in the form of a statewide bond to handle the staggering backlog of public school infrastructure needs; 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, impact achievement and public school facilities need to be 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 older school 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,** Chowan County has school capital needs of over $44 million; and

**WHEREAS,** it is estimated that Chowan County could receive $13.5 million toward the shortfall of school capital needs; and

**WHEREAS,** the North Carolina School Bond – HB 866/SB 542 – would invest $1.9 billion to begin addressing these critical needs all across the state.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners and Edenton-Chowan Board of Education urge 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 (HB866/SB542) so that school districts across North Carolina are better able to meet urgent facility needs.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that copies of this joint resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Chowan County and to all 100 counties and to all 115 school systems in North Carolina.

Adopted this 8th day of May 2018

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Jeffery Smith, Chairman Gene Jordan, Chairman

Chowan County Board of Commissioners Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education

Attest:

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Susanne Stallings, Clerk to the Board Dr. Rob Jackson, Secretary

Chowan County Board of Commissioners Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education