

Halifax County Board of Commissioners

Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman
Chenoa Richardson Davis, Vice-Chairwoman
Sammy D. Webb
Jimmie C. Silver
Gary R. Redding
Thomas E. Barrett, Jr.



Dia H. Denton
County Manager
Mary Anderson-Faison
Deputy Clerk to the Board
M. Glynn Rollins, Jr.
County Attorney

Monday, September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting at 5:30 PM

The Concerned Citizens of Tillery Community Center
321 Community Center Road, Tillery, North Carolina 27887
252-826-3017/Fax: 252-826-3244
www.tillery@aol.com

The mission of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners is to provide leadership and support for an effective county government that seeks to enhance the quality of life for the people of Halifax County.

Call to Order

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Adoption of Agenda

Conflict of Interest

In accordance with the Halifax County Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedures and N. C. G. S. Sec. 153A-44, it is the duty of every member present to vote on all matters coming before the Board, unless there is a conflict of interest as determined by the Board or by law. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Board today? If so, please identify the conflict and the remaining Board members will vote to consider the requested excuse.

1. Special Recognition

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| A. Halifax Underground Railroad Resolution | Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman |
| B. Letter Recognizing Reverend Gregory Evans of Crowell Baptist Church on His 20th Pastor Anniversary | Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman |
| C. Proclamation Marking the 75th Anniversary of London Missionary Baptist Church | Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman |

2. Public Comment Period N. C. G. S. §153A-52.1

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. Public Comment Policy | Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|

3. Agenda Item

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. New Weldon Middle/High School Construction Update | Dr. Tammy Boone, Superintendent,
Weldon City Schools |
|--|---|

4. County Manager's Report

5. County Attorney's Report

6. Other Business

- A. Letter to Federal Representatives in Support of the FEMA Act
(H.R. 4669)

Chairman Vernon J. Bryant

7. Closed Session N. C. G. S. §143-318.11

8. Adjourn until the September 29, 2025, Special Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Accommodations for individuals with disabilities may be arranged by contacting
the County Manager's office at 252-583-1131 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



AGENDA
Halifax County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting

TO: Halifax County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Christina Wells, Deputy County Manager

PRESENTER: Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman

SUBJECT: Halifax Underground Railroad Resolution

DATE: September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

See the attached Resolution to recognize the significance of the Underground Railroad sites - the Roanoke River, Historic Halifax State Historic Site, and Roanoke Canal - in Halifax County and proclaim September 20, 2025, as Halifax Underground Railroad Day.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution_UndergroundRailroadDay_9-15-25

TOTAL COST:

COUNTY COST:

REQUEST: Adopt the attached Resolution to recognize the significance of the Underground Railroad sites in Halifax County and proclaim September 20, 2025, as Halifax Underground Railroad Day.



Resolution
Halifax Underground Railroad
Halifax, North Carolina

Whereas, the Roanoke River, Historic Halifax State Historic Site, and Roanoke Canal have been designated by the National Park Service as official sites of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom; and

Whereas, Halifax County is proud to be home to these three sites that provide a source of rich history, a place for reflective healing, and a new link to cultural tourism in eastern North Carolina; and

Whereas, America's economic success from the Colonial Era to the Civil War depended on the institution of slavery. Enslaved people of African descent worked to exhaustion on plantation fields and in the homes and businesses of their owners, experiencing beatings, branding, and brutal work, as well as being sold at auction; and

Whereas, freedom seekers resisted slavery by fleeing across state lines and international borders to liberty. Freedom seekers journeyed alone through dark swamps, dressed in disguises, and traveled in hidden compartments in wagons. Some were aided by family, fellow freedom seekers, and abolitionists; and

Whereas, the Roanoke River played a major role in communications between free and enslaved people due to the boatmen plying the waters and spreading information to people along its banks; and

Whereas, Quakers who lived across the Roanoke River from the town of Halifax aided over 600 freedom seekers in their flight from North Carolina. The river provided a path, places to hide, food, and at times transportation by sympathetic boatmen.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Halifax County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim September 20, 2025, as Halifax Underground Railroad Day in Halifax County, that the original of this resolution be presented to the Halifax Underground Railroad Board of Directors and Advisory Committee, and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners this 15th day of September 2025.

Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman
Halifax County Board of Commissioners

Mary Anderson-Faison, NCCCC
Deputy Clerk



AGENDA
Halifax County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting

TO: Halifax County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Christina Wells, Deputy County Manager

PRESENTER: Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman

SUBJECT: Letter Recognizing Reverend Gregory Evans of Crowell Baptist Church on His 20th Pastor Anniversary

DATE: September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

See the attached letter marking the 20th Pastor Anniversary of Reverend Gregory Evans of Crowell Baptist Church.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CrowellBaptistChurch_PastorAnniversary_Letter

TOTAL COST:

COUNTY COST:

REQUEST: Approve the attached letter marking the 20th Pastor Anniversary of Reverend Gregory Evans of Crowell Baptist Church.

Halifax County Board of Commissioners

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Halifax County Historic Courthouse
10 North King Street, Post Office Box 38, Halifax, North Carolina 27839
252-583-1131 · Fax: 252-583-9921
www.halifaxnc.com

September 15, 2025

Reverend Gregory L. Evans
Crowell Baptist Church
4603 NC-481
Halifax, North Carolina 27839

Dear Reverend Evans:

On behalf of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners, I would like to congratulate you, as Crowell Baptist Church proudly celebrates your 20th Pastor Anniversary.

Your dedication and commitment to sharing the gospel brings credit not only to you but also to everyone whose life has been touched, impacted and blessed by your ministry as pastor.

I applaud your efforts and would like to extend to you, on behalf of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners, our sincere congratulations and gratitude for your spiritual leadership.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman
Halifax County Board of Commissioners

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In God We Trust



AGENDA
Halifax County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting

TO: Halifax County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Christina Wells, Deputy County Manager

PRESENTER: Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman

SUBJECT: Proclamation Marking the 75th Anniversary of London Missionary Baptist Church

DATE: September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

See attached Proclamation marking the 75th Anniversary of London Missionary Baptist Church.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proclamation_LondonMissionaryBaptistChurch_75thAnniversary

TOTAL COST:

COUNTY COST:

REQUEST: Approve the attached Proclamation marking the 75th Anniversary of London Missionary Baptist Church.



Proclamation
London Missionary Baptist Church
75th Church Anniversary

Whereas, London Missionary Baptist Church is commemorating its 75th church anniversary on October 26, 2025, with communities and congregations coming together to help celebrate this occasion; and

Whereas, in January 1950, God gave a group of dynamic trailblazers, under the leadership of the church's founder and first pastor of record, Reverend Gladie Allen Gilchrist, a vision to help establish a permanent place of worship, which was originally located in the old Rosenwald London Elementary School, located on Highway 158 West, approximately ¼ mile west of the current location. Ultimately, land was purchased, and the first structure was built in 1950; and

Whereas, on March 12, 1985, the first structure was destroyed by fire and was subsequently rebuilt in the same location in June 1985 where it stands today; and

Whereas, in later years, with every new pastor that came through London Missionary Baptist Church, it appeared that God gave each a vision to do something that would improve and enrich the church family; and

Whereas, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the church's current leader Reverend Elbert Lee was installed as pastor in 2003. Since then, many improvements have occurred, and new members have been added. Currently, London Missionary Baptist Church has members from all over Halifax County and beyond; and

Whereas, London Missionary Baptist has continued to advance and grow over the years, and the church has undergone many transformations, but the vision remains "Where Christ is All and Everyone is Somebody."

Now, Therefore, Be It Proclaimed, that I, Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners, in the State of North Carolina, hereby proclaim Sunday, October 26, 2025, as London Missionary Baptist Church Day in Halifax County and urge all the citizens of Halifax County to pay special tribute to this church on the occasion of their 75th anniversary and that a copy of this proclamation be spread upon the minutes of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Halifax, North Carolina, to be affixed this the 15th day of September 2025.

Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman
Halifax County Board of Commissioners

Mary Anderson-Faison, NCCCC, Deputy Clerk
Halifax County Board of Commissioners



AGENDA
Halifax County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting

TO: Halifax County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Mary Anderson-Faison, Deputy Clerk

PRESENTER: Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman

SUBJECT: Public Comment Policy

DATE: September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Attached please find the public comment period statement and policy

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public Comment Period - Opening Statement- In Person Meetings
2. Public Comment Policy

TOTAL COST:

COUNTY COST:

REQUEST:



OPENING STATEMENT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

As required by G.S. 153A-52.1, the Halifax County Board of Commissioners provides a public comment period once a month as an item of business on its regular meeting agenda. Now is the scheduled time for the public comment period.

When I call your name, please come to the podium, state your name and address, and begin speaking. You will have three minutes to address the board. If you have documents that you want to give to the board, please hand those out before going to the podium.

I will not go over the rules for the public comment period because they were posted by the door of this room. By signing up to speak, you have acknowledged that you are familiar with the rules and that you will abide by them.

We will do our best to hear from everyone who has signed up to speak, but if we are unable to accommodate everyone in the time allotted, you will be invited to speak during our next public comment period, at which time you will be given priority without having to sign up again.

We appreciate your interest in Halifax County government, and we look forward to hearing from you.

At this time, I invite our first speaker to come to the podium and give us your remarks.

HALIFAX COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

Pursuant to G.S. 153A-52.1, the Halifax County Board of Commissioners will provide a public comment period at least once per month as an item of business on the agenda of the board. In a month when there are two meetings of the board, the public comment period will be included as an item of business on the agenda of the first meeting of the month. There will be no public comment period during special meetings, emergency meetings or workshops, unless otherwise specified by the board.

The public comment period shall be subject to the following guidelines:

1. Each person desiring to speak during the public comment period must sign up prior to the start of the meeting on the sign-up sheet located on the podium in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, by listing his or her name, address and the topic on which he or she will speak. The sign-up sheet will be available thirty minutes prior to the scheduled meeting time, and removed from the podium by the clerk to the board five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the meeting, after which no additional speakers will be added.

2. Any speaker who desires to distribute documents to the commissioners must have at least nine (9) copies to distribute. Documents will NOT be entered into the minutes of the meeting unless specifically approved by action of the board.

3. A total of fifteen (15) minutes will be set aside for public comment. At the end of this time, those who signed up to speak but could not be recognized during the allotted time will be invited to make their comments at the next public comment period, at which time they will be given priority for speaking without signing up again. Alternatively, the chair, in his or her discretion, or the board by motion duly adopted, may extend the time allotted for public comment.

4. Each speaker will have a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. A speaker may not sign up to speak more than once during the same public comment period. No time may be yielded to a speaker by another speaker. To avoid repetitiveness, groups are encouraged to select a spokesperson to speak on their behalf. At the request of the chair, groups of persons supporting or opposing the same positions may be asked to designate a spokesperson to speak, and the designated spokesperson may be allotted up to five (5) minutes. Additional time may be allowed by the chair in his or her discretion, or by the board by motion duly adopted.

5. Speakers will be recognized in the order in which their names appear on the sign-up sheet. Speakers will address the commissioners from the lectern and begin their remarks by stating their name and address.

6. The purpose of the public comment period is to provide an opportunity to express concerns to the board. Speakers should not expect commissioners or county staff to answer impromptu questions. Speakers should not expect a dialogue with or response from commissioners, except to the extent necessary to clarify the speaker's position. The board will not take action on an item presented during public comment. When appropriate, the board may refer inquiries or items brought up during public comment to the county manager or other staff for follow-up.

7. Speakers' comments will be limited to subjects that are germane to Halifax County and within the jurisdiction or authority of the board of commissioners to act. Speakers will not discuss matters regarding the candidacy of any person seeking public office, including the candidacy of the person addressing the board.

8. Speakers should maintain proper decorum and make their comments in a civil manner. While helpful criticism is not discouraged, personal attacks and obscene, derogatory, or slanderous remarks cannot be tolerated.

9. A copy of this Public Comment Policy will be posted at the door of the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

Adopted October 2, 2018



AGENDA
Halifax County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting

TO: Halifax County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Dia Denton, County Manager

PRESENTER: Dr. Tammy Boone, Superintendent, Weldon City Schools

SUBJECT: New Weldon Middle/High School Construction Update

DATE: September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Dr. Tammy Boone, Superintendent of Weldon City Schools, will provide a project update on the construction of the new grade 6 - 12 school.

ATTACHMENTS:

TOTAL COST: n/a

COUNTY COST: n/a

REQUEST: No action needed.



AGENDA
Halifax County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting

TO: Halifax County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Christina Wells, Deputy County Manager

PRESENTER: Chairman Vernon J. Bryant

SUBJECT: Letter to Federal Representatives in Support of the FEMA Act (H.R. 4669)

DATE: September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

On Wednesday, September 3, the US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee overwhelmingly approved the Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act (H.R. 4669) by a vote of 57-3. This critical piece of legislation contains a number of wins for counties that were directly advocated for by the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Intergovernmental Disaster Reform Task Force.

As the bill now heads to the full US House for a vote, NACo has asked counties to help turn these hard-fought wins into law by contacting our federal representatives and urging them to support the FEMA Act to secure a more effective and responsive emergency management system for all communities.

Key wins in the bill include:

- Transitioning FEMA's Public Assistance Program from a reimbursement to a grant model with the opportunity for grants to be made directly to counties
- Streamlining environmental and historic preservation reviews
- Creating a universal disaster application for disaster survivors
- Restructuring FEMA's pre-disaster mitigation program by moving it to a formula-based grant
- Creating a Public Assistance dashboard with information for each major disaster declaration

Attached is a letter from Halifax County sent to our federal representatives on September 5 in support of the FEMA Act.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. LetterstoFederalRepresentatives_reFEMAAct(HR4669)_Davis
2. LetterstoFederalRepresentatives_reFEMAAct(HR4669)_Budd
3. LetterstoFederalRepresentatives_reFEMAAct(HR4669)_Tillis

TOTAL COST:

COUNTY COST:

REQUEST: Request retroactive approval of the letter in support of the FEMA Act (H.R. 4669) to our federal representatives.

Halifax County Board of Commissioners

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252-583-1131 · Fax: 252-583-9921
www.halifaxnc.com

September 5, 2025

The Honorable Don Davis
United States Congress
1123 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

On behalf of Halifax County, we write to express our strong support for the bipartisan Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act (H.R. 4669). This legislation provides long-overdue reforms to streamline disaster recovery, increase transparency and efficiency, and make federal assistance more accessible to the communities we serve.

Counties are the nation's frontline responders during disasters – providing emergency services, clearing debris, operating shelters, and managing long-term recovery. Yet we often face an overly bureaucratic and delayed federal process that slows our ability to deliver timely support to residents and rebuild critical infrastructure. The FEMA Act directly addresses these barriers.

Specifically, we support key provisions in the FEMA Act that will have a transformative impact on county disaster response and recovery:

- **Universal Disaster Application:** Simplifies and unifies survivor applications across federal agencies, reducing confusion, duplication, and delays for disaster survivors during the most stressful times of their lives.
- **Public Assistance Program Reform:** Transitions from a reimbursement-based model to a grant-based model for FEMA Public Assistance, ensuring counties – many of which operate on tight budgets – can more quickly restore vital infrastructure without fronting millions of dollars.

The mission of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners is to provide leadership and support for an effective county government that seeks to enhance the quality of life for the people of Halifax County.

In God We Trust

· Public Assistance Dashboard: Increases transparency and visibility into the status of project approvals, obligations, and disbursements, helping counties plan better, hold partners accountable and identify bottlenecks.

· Mitigation Program Reforms: Modernizes FEMA’s mitigation programs so counties can proactively address vulnerabilities before the next disaster strikes, better protecting lives, property and taxpayer dollars.

Halifax County, a rural Tier One county, has weathered many storms that have severely impacted our citizens. Most recently, the remnants of Tropical Storm Chantal in July brought nearly seven inches of rain and flash flooding to some parts of our county with accompanying power outages. There was a severe thunderstorm in May 2025 causing extensive damage including downed trees, blocked roads and prolonged power outages. In July 2024, an EF-1 tornado made its way across the county, causing tree and power line damage.

At this critical moment – with growing disaster frequency, increased financial strain, and persistent recovery challenges – the FEMA Act offers counties a pathway to more timely, coordinated, and effective disaster assistance. The bill recognizes counties as essential partners in emergency management and reflects meaningful engagement with local officials across the country.

We thank you for your leadership and urge swift passage of the FEMA Act to better serve our residents and strengthen the nation’s disaster response and recovery framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vernon J. Bryant', written over a faint horizontal line.

Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman
Halifax County Board of Commissioners

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www.halifaxnc.com

September 5, 2025

The Honorable Ted Budd
United States Senate
North Carolina State Headquarters
5380 US Highway 158, Suite 202
Advance, NC 27006

Dear Senator Budd:

On behalf of Halifax County, we write to express our strong support for the bipartisan Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act (H.R. 4669). This legislation provides long-overdue reforms to streamline disaster recovery, increase transparency and efficiency, and make federal assistance more accessible to the communities we serve.

Counties are the nation's frontline responders during disasters – providing emergency services, clearing debris, operating shelters, and managing long-term recovery. Yet we often face an overly bureaucratic and delayed federal process that slows our ability to deliver timely support to residents and rebuild critical infrastructure. The FEMA Act directly addresses these barriers.

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September 5, 2025

The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tillis:

On behalf of Halifax County, we write to express our strong support for the bipartisan Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act (H.R. 4669). This legislation provides long-overdue reforms to streamline disaster recovery, increase transparency and efficiency, and make federal assistance more accessible to the communities we serve.

Counties are the nation's frontline responders during disasters – providing emergency services, clearing debris, operating shelters, and managing long-term recovery. Yet we often face an overly bureaucratic and delayed federal process that slows our ability to deliver timely support to residents and rebuild critical infrastructure. The FEMA Act directly addresses these barriers.

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Halifax County Board of Commissioners