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# Your Legislative Report

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House and Senate leaders have said that they are optimistic that a compromise state budget will be voted on sometime this week. Senate leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore both told reporters that a final agreement should be reached no later than today.

The only differences remaining between the two chambers of the General Assembly center on tax cuts and state employee pay raises. The two chambers have already agreed on teacher pay raises, although the details won't be available until the compromise budget is presented.

The Senate held an atypical work session on Friday, June 24, to move legislation unrelated to the state budget that it wants passed before the legislature adjourns. The Senate is expected to pass the budget this week and adjourn, leaving Raleigh and whatever is left in the hands of the House. If that happens, it would limit what the House could do with any outstanding legislation that is important to its members, aside from the budget. The House, on the other hand, has signaled that it would be willing to return for a week after July 4, to deal with remaining legislative priorities.

If you have questions, please contact Chris Peek at 980-314-2881 or Chris.Peek@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

## Fitch Affirms County GO Bond Ratings at 'AAA'; Outlook Stable

Fitch Ratings released the following bond ratings for Mecklenburg County government on June 24.

- \$1.0 billion general obligation bonds at "AAA"
- \$105.7 million variable rate Windows bonds at "AAA/F1+"
- \$339.7 million certificates of participation and limited obligation bonds at "AA+"

This is the County's first review under the revised Fitch criteria which included four key factor assessments and scenario analysis.

Fitch also affirmed the County's long-term Issuer Default Rating at "AAA" and the ratings outlook as stable.

The County will be rated by all three rating agencies in conjunction with a planned bond sale in early fall.

### Mecklenburg County Names New Veterans Services Division Director

I would like to announce that we have hired Janene McGee as the new <u>Mecklenburg County</u> <u>Veterans Services</u> division director. McGee will start her employment with the County on July 25, 2016.

She is currently Region I manager for the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. In her role, McGee is responsible for training, mentoring, and providing support and assistance to 27 counties in the western part of the state. She serves as the interim Region III manager for the Raleigh, Fayetteville and Wilmington areas, overseeing 26 counties.

McGee is a native of North Carolina and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. She trained and worked in Signals Intelligence as a Morse Code Operator. McGee later served in the Active Reserves, and in February 2003, was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a Staff Sergeant.

She is an accredited veteran service officer for North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion. McGee holds a master of arts degree in educational media, instructional technology/computers from Appalachian State University. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration-management from American InterContinental University Online.

We look forward to her arrival.

#### **GIS Wins National Award**

Mecklenburg County Geospatial Information Services (GIS) has been awarded the Esri Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award. They were selected for the honor from more than 300,000 eligible candidates.

GIS was chosen for its innovative application of technology, data collection, geospatial information visualization, and strategic leadership in the field of local government.

The award is scheduled to be given to GIS representatives at the Esri Annual User Conference in San Diego on Wednesday. Award recipients are recognized for having best practices and implementing world-changing technology in their operations.

Mecklenburg County GIS produces state-of-the-art applications and tools, most notably Polaris 3G, Geoportal, FinsLive, and SiteOne, and provides services to residents and other government agencies who need assistance with GIS-related projects.

GIS was one of 167 organizations in fields such as agriculture, defense, transportation, nonprofit, telecommunications, and state and local government to receive a SAG Award. Esri staff nominate thousands of candidates annually from around the world for consideration and company president Jack Dangermond selects the finalists.

Congratulations GIS!

### **BOCC Newsletter Debuts July 1**

On July 1, Mecklenburg County will publish its first Board of County Commissioners Newsletter. This will be a quarterly online publication that allows commissioners to post stories regarding activities in their districts. Residents can subscribe to the newsletter by <u>clicking here</u>.

The newsletter will include news, photos and links about events, and general district activities - not campaign information. Links will also be provided to commissioners' social media pages.

For more information, please contact LaShonda Hart at 980-314-2906 or LaShonda.Hart@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

### **Board Bulletin Summer Schedule**

Beginning in July, we will shift to a modified schedule for the Board Bulletin, and will be releasing it every other week until Labor Day.

The release day will continue to be Monday unless otherwise noted. Release dates include:

July 5 (Tuesday)

- July 18
- Aug. 1
- Aug. 15
- Aug. 29
- · Sept. 6 (Tuesday)

We will resume our normal weekly release schedule following the Sept. 6 Board Bulletin.

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Wednesday, July 6, 5-6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC Room CH14
- . Wednesday, July 6, 6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber

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