Gates County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Agenda
6:00 PM Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Commissioners Chambers 2nd Floor – 1836 Historic Courthouse
115 Court Street Gatesville, NC 27938

I. Call to Order – Emily Truman, Board Chair

II. Opening Prayer | Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2025, Regular Meeting

B. Tax Refunds

C. Native American Heritage Month Proclamation

V. Special Presentations

A. Rural RISE NC | The Honorable Elaine Marshall, NC Secretary of State

Secretary Marshall will present her Rural RISE NC initiative for informational purposes. *Rural RISE NC; short for **"Resources for Innovators, Start-ups, and Entrepreneurs"** is a North Carolina Secretary of State-led program that connects rural small business owners with mentors, counselors, funding sources, and other free resources to help their ventures grow and succeed.*

B. Great Dismal Swamp Stakeholder Collaborative | Chief Emeritus Sam Bass, Elder Ben Keeling, and Dr. Alexandra Sutton

Stakeholders will share their proposal and seek support for asking the U.S. Congress to designate the Great Dismal Swamp as a National Heritage Area (NHA). *The **Great Dismal Swamp Stakeholder Collaborative** is a coalition of tribal, cultural, environmental, and governmental groups working together to conserve the swamp's ecological integrity, preserve its rich cultural and historical legacy, and elevate public awareness in an equitable and inclusive way.*

C. Gates County Lion's Club - KidSight | Jennifer Samper & Lindsey Vick

Members of the Lions Club will present ***KidSight*** for informational purposes. *KidSight is a Lions Club-led pediatric vision screening initiative that provides free, high-tech eye screenings for children; especially those aged six months to six years, to detect vision issues like amblyopia and refractive errors early and refer kids for professional eye care.*

D. NC East Alliance | Donna Phillips, MBA, Vice President-Economic Development

Ms. Phillips will share partnership information. ***NC East Alliance*** *is a regional, not-for-profit economic development organization serving 29 counties in eastern North Carolina that drives growth through workforce development, community revitalization, business support, marketing, and talent attraction initiatives.*

E. Government Shutdown Resources | Willie Smith, III, DSS Director

VI. Public Comment (***5 minutes per speaker***)

VII. Sheriff's Office Update

VIII. Old Business

A. Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update | Billy Tutwiler, Emergency Management Director

B. Personnel Policy | 1st Reading Draft

C. Rules of Procedure (Revised Draft) | Adoption

D. Code of Ethics Draft | Adoption

E. Follow-up Discussion from the Joint Meeting with the Board of Education

IX. New Business

A. Clerk to the Board | Updates

B. Budget Amendments

X. County Manager - Report | Updates

XI. Commissioners' Updates

XII. Chair Updates

XIII. Public Comment (***3 minutes per speaker***)

XIV. Adjourn

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, members of the Gates County Board of Commissioners must abstain from discussion and voting on matters where a legal conflict of interest is present. Members who suspect they may have a potential conflict of interest in a matter shall confer with the County Attorney prior to the meetings for legal opinion. A Commissioner who requests to abstain from any given matter otherwise requiring their lawful duty to act shall state the nature of their conflict to the Board. The Board, after hearing from the County Attorney on the same, shall vote upon whether a legal conflict or a substantial appearance thereof exists. If found present, the Board by majority vote shall excuse the Commissioner from all participation in the matter.