



## **POLICY GOALS**

The following long-term goals have been designed to guide the development of the 2006-2007 budget. These goals provide direction for County departments in their allocation of resources to the most important areas. All departments are aware that these goals are dependent on available financial and staffing resources. Many of these goals are continuing in nature and do not imply the end will be achieved within the current budget period.

### **Providing a safe community for all Randolph County citizens**

- Work toward reducing the level of crime and improving the community security level.
- Promote a responsive public safety communications center with employees that are highly skilled in responding to the emergency needs of citizens and the community at large.
- Ensure the County's ability to effectively handle bio-terrorism, hazardous materials threats, and natural disasters.
- Promote a high level of fire protection services by community fire departments.
- Review and implement new security procedures in addressing the safety needs of staff and the public using County facilities.
- Provide safe public educational facilities for the children of Randolph County by maintaining the established partnership with the schools and their officials in the deployment of school resource officers.
- Support the Day Reporting Center in its continuing effort to address the needs of adults and youth who have entered the justice system.

### **Ensuring the health and welfare of all Randolph County citizens**

- Support the Health Department in their efforts to improve access to health care, increase preventive services, reduce lifestyle-related risks, and reduce outbreaks of infectious disease and other public health threats.
- Provide social economic programs to assist citizens with basic subsistence needs.
- Support the Randolph County Senior Adults Association in its efforts to provide low-cost transportation services to and from medical appointments, congregate meals, employment, education, and social recreational sites.
- Provide financial support to the Sandhills Center, to encourage access to mental health services for citizens of all ages with physical, social, and emotional problems.

### **Improving the standard of living for Randolph County citizens through educational opportunities and economic development**

- Assist the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation in its efforts to develop employment opportunities for our citizens.
- Continue to encourage economic growth through partnerships with the State of NC, local municipalities, and other organizations.
- Provide Randolph Community College with the resources needed to offer students the education and training necessary to lead productive lives.
- Improve coordination, communication and planning with both the Randolph County and Asheboro City Boards of Education regarding public school funding.
- Maintain the property tax rate as low as economically possible while providing essential services to citizens of Randolph County.

### **Protecting the environment and the quality of life enjoyed by Randolph County citizens**

- Provide safe water to the public by maintaining well and wastewater sites in accordance with State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Continue to develop water resources through partnerships with the Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority, local municipalities, and other organizations.
- Effectively plan for the orderly growth and development of the County by continued implementation of the Growth Management Plan.
- Address important environmental issues and encourage citizen input and involvement in issues such as water management and waste disposal.
- Continue to explore opportunities and/or options in efficiently and effectively reducing waste disposal costs.
- Reduce the number of junk automobiles and illegal trash dumping in the County through aggressive code enforcement.

### **Investing in electronic technology for the efficient facilitation of County business**

- Enhance the County's technology resources to provide greater public access, efficient internal operations, and improved electronic communications.
- Expand and enhance departmental web sites to ensure the public's awareness of all services provided by County departments, as well as keeping the public informed of decisions and/or policies made by County officials.
- Continue the use of the Internet and Geographic Information System (GIS) resources to support E911, Planning, Tax, Inspection, and data exchange services and provide support services to initiatives involving mapping, disaster planning and response, and health service programs.

### **Providing for the recreational and cultural needs of the community**

- Improve the literacy levels of Randolph County citizens through local library services.
- Support the Randolph Arts Guild in its effort to provide a variety of programs encouraging appreciation of the arts.

### **Maintaining prompt, courteous, and professional services from all County employees**

- Ensure satisfaction with County services by encouraging and educating employees to respond to services and/or inquiries requested by the public, or by other County departments, in a prompt, courteous, and professional manner.
- Support competitive benefits program that will ensure market competitiveness in recruitment and retention of qualified employees.
- Ensure that qualified and skilled personnel are recruited and hired for all job vacancies.
- Maximize productivity and improve efficiency by providing appropriate training to employees.
- Promote safety by providing routine maintenance and safety inspections of County facilities and equipment, as well as offering safety training to all employees.

### **Ensuring the financial stability and legal protection of the County**

- Encourage all departments to closely monitor expenditures through regular review of operational and administrative costs and to initiate cost-cutting efforts.
- Encourage all departments to aggressively collect revenue due to the County and seek alternate forms of revenue whenever possible, such as grants and user fees.
- Maintain an undesignated, unreserved fund balance of at least 20 percent of the total General Fund budget in order to have adequate reserves to offset revenue volatility, to maintain liquidity despite the timing of cash inflows/outflows, and to meet unforeseen contingencies.
- Incorporate discussion of capital improvement needs as an integral part of the annual budget process.
- Maintain and improve the current bond ratings with Moody's and Standard and Poor's.
- Schedule debt for repayment on the basis of the entire outstanding debt, not just the individual issue, in a manner which seeks to reduce fluctuation in the total tax rate.
- Protect the County through legal documents that minimize litigation.
- Continue risk management to reduce uncertainties regarding potential losses to assets, maintain continuity of services to the public, and support the integrity of the budget.
- Promote excellence in financial reporting through continued qualification for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
- Promote excellence in budgetary reporting through continued qualification for the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Preparation Award.
- Provide accurate, efficient and complete tax information in locating, listing, and valuing of all personal and business property in the County.
- Continue to achieve at least a 97 percent collection rate of ad valorem property taxes.