

## **Resolution on Education**

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina legislature has preserved our state's historic interest in quality education and increased the education budget by more than \$360 million, representing 56% of the state budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the overriding goal of public education policy in North Carolina should be to ensure that residents can secure as excellent an education as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, the NC legislature has taken steps to increase the diversity of educational opportunities within the public school system by increasing the number of public charter schools, and by allowing charter schools more flexibility in hiring qualified teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, the NC legislature has improved local school boards' flexibility to hire and retain teachers based on the quality of education they provide for our children; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina legislature has taken important steps to provide opportunities for children to benefit from alternative educational experiences, including:

- a) Opportunity Scholarships that afford lower-income students access to private schooling previously limited to the well-off, and
- b) Disability Scholarships that allow families of special-needs children to pursue the best possible educational environment for their child, and
- c) Expanding the legal definition of homeschooling to allow for co-ops and expanding the variety of educational options available to home-schooled children; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina legislature has acted to protect public schools from the burdens imposed by additional testing for the Common Core Curriculum; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Watauga Republican Party encourages the North Carolina legislature to continue bringing innovative solutions to bear on improving education for our children, particularly those without the financial resources to pursue them independently; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Watauga Republican Party encourages the legislature to determine whether the Common Core Curriculum is best for North Carolina public schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Watauga County Republican Party recognizes the work of its elected legislators, Senator Dan Soucek and Representative Jonathan Jordan, in pursuing educational reform for the benefit of North Carolina's children.

**Resolution Opposing Regulation Without Representation  
In Extraterritorial Jurisdictions**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Boone has been expanding the ETJ for more than 30 years and using this mechanism with various zoning laws and ordinances to regulate property owners who have no voice in the election of Boone officials; and

**WHEREAS**, in creating the ETJ the original intent of state legislators was to provide municipalities with a measure of control over property that was to be annexed, so they could plan for the provision of services such as water, sewer and garbage collection; and

**WHEREAS**, since the establishment of the ETJ, the only annexation into Boone has been voluntary, by residents seeking the above municipal services, and except for these rare instances Boone has had no plans to annex property in the ETJ; and

**WHEREAS**, zoning laws such as the "Steep Slope" ordinances dramatically reduce the potential uses and diminish the value of many ETJ properties and are substantially more restrictive upon ETJ properties than upon properties of voting residents of Boone; and

**WHEREAS**, the area of land currently in the ETJ is greater than the area of land in the Town of Boone city limits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Boone is unable to state how many residents live in the ETJ, a requirement of NC statute 160A-362, and it is estimated that 5000 people live in the ETJ, regulated by officials who suffer no electoral consequences for their actions; and

**WHEREAS**, the only input afforded ETJ residents in the regulatory process are the Planning Board, which is advisory only, and the Board of Adjustments, where ETJ members are easily outvoted, creating an environment of 'Regulation without Representation'; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina General Assembly has previously limited many other municipalities from exercising ETJ authority; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Watauga County Republican Party supports legislation to remedy this unfair situation by either eliminating the ETJ or by allowing citizens in the ETJ to vote in Town of Boone elections, making Boone officials accountable to those regulated by town ordinances and zoning; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support Senator Dan Soucek and Representative Jonathan Jordan in their efforts to provide a legislative solution to this injustice.

## **Resolution of Appreciation for Congresswoman Virginia Foxx**

**WHEREAS**, Congresswoman Virginia Foxx represents Watauga County in the North Carolina 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in the US House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Foxx is in a position of GOP leadership as Secretary of the Republican House Conference, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, and Vice-Chair of the powerful Rules Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Representative Foxx is known as one of the most conservative Members of Congress and has remained true to her common-sense conservative values, despite the corrupting influence of the Washington, DC, environment; and

**WHEREAS**, she has sponsored or co-sponsored numerous legislative bills to promote job training and job creation (such as the SKILLS Act), improve government efficiency and accountability, protect citizens' privacy and property rights, promote the welfare of personnel serving in the military, and reign in over-zealous bureaucratic regulation; and

**WHEREAS**, Congresswoman Foxx has consistently, but pragmatically, opposed funding and implementation of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and supported its repeal while promoting common-sense step-wise healthcare reform that will address the problem areas without a top-down, bureaucratic Federal takeover of nearly 1/5th of the US economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Representative Foxx maintains close ties with her constituents, returning home to her District nearly every weekend, remaining active in local events (to the degree allowed by her legislative schedule) and maintaining open communication with those she represents; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Watauga County Republican Party appreciates and values its representation by Congresswoman Virginia Foxx in the US House of Representatives and supports her steadfast adherence to conservative values and her call for a more efficient and accountable Federal government that is responsive to the people it serves.

## **Resolution In Support of *Ad Valorem* Sales Tax Distribution**

**WHEREAS**, Watauga County collects sales tax throughout the county, and there are two ways in which sales tax revenues may be distributed: *per capita* or *ad valorem*; and

**WHEREAS**, sales tax revenue is important for the economic development of all the municipalities in Watauga County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Boone has thwarted economic development by creating intrusive and overbearing statutes, codes and regulations that discourage new business; and

**WHEREAS**, additional revenues from *ad valorem* distribution allow other municipalities in Watauga County to make investments that improve economic opportunities for citizens of the county and are particularly beneficial to the fire departments; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Watauga County Republican Party supports the *ad valorem* method of distributing sales tax revenues in Watauga County.

## **Resolution to Rescind the North Carolina Call for a Constitutional Convention**

**WHEREAS**, State Representative Jonathan Jordan sponsored House Joint Resolution 374, which passed the North Carolina State House by a vote of 114-0, and would officially rescind North Carolina's call for a Constitutional Convention; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill is now in the Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate, chaired by Senator Apodaca, and no action was taken in the legislative long session of 2013 to bring the bill up for discussion and vote in committee or on the Senate floor; and

**WHEREAS**, Representative Jordan has researched the issue and concurs with the danger to our country of a call for a Constitutional Convention; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Watauga County Republican Party urges the North Carolina Senate to bring Representative Jordan's House Joint Resolution 374 to a Senate committee and to the Senate floor for discussion and a vote; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Watauga County Republican Party urges our State Legislators to not enter into any additional calls for Conventions designed to change the US Constitution.

## **Resolution in Support of the Second Amendment Of the US Constitution**

**WHEREAS**, the Second Amendment of the US Constitution protects the right, granted by The Creator, of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms; and

**WHEREAS**, an armed populace was deemed important by the Founding Fathers, not for purposes of hunting or sport, and not only to repel an armed invasion, but equally to protect the citizens from an overbearing or tyrannical government; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been many attempts to infringe upon these rights, described variously as 'gun control' or 'gun safety' or 'crime prevention'; and

**WHEREAS**, egregious criminal actions perpetrated with firearms by mentally unstable individuals have been shamelessly used for political purposes by gun control proponents attempting to restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens, while openly admitting their proposed measures would not have prevented such tragedies; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed measures would only affect law-abiding citizens and would diminish their ability to defend themselves against criminals, who account for most gun violence; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Watauga County Republican Party urges all elected representatives to protect the right of North Carolinians to keep and bear arms, including the right to carry concealed weapons; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we urge legislators to support better enforcement of existing gun laws, and to resist laws that infringe upon the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.