

PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED MAY [6], 2026

**Ratings:**  
**Moody's:**  
**S&P:**  
(See "Ratings" herein)

**NEW ISSUE—Book-Entry Only**

*Selected information is presented on this cover page for the convenience of the user. To make an informed decision regarding the 2026 Bonds, a prospective investor should read this Official Statement in its entirety. Unless indicated, capitalized terms used on this cover page have the meanings given in this Official Statement.*

**[\$Amount]\***  
**County of Durham, North Carolina**  
**General Obligation Refunding Bonds,**  
**Series 2026B**

**Dated: Date of  
Delivery**

**Due: As shown on inside cover page**

*Tax Treatment:* In the opinion of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, Bond Counsel, under existing law, (1) assuming compliance by the County with certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, interest on the 2026 Bonds (a) is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes, and (b) is not an item of tax preference for purposes of computing the federal alternative minimum tax, and (2) interest on the 2026 Bonds is exempt from State of North Carolina income taxation. See "TAX TREATMENT" herein.

*Redemption:* The 2026 Bonds are subject to redemption before their maturities as described herein.

*Security:* The 2026 Bonds constitute general obligations of the County, secured by a pledge of the faith and credit and taxing power of the County.

*Interest Payment Dates* June 1 and December 1, commencing December 1, 2026

*Denominations:* \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof

*Expected Delivery  
Date:* ~~June~~August 413, 2026

*Bond Counsel:* Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP

*Municipal Advisor:* DEC Associates, Inc.

*Underwriters' Counsel:* Chapman and Cutler LLP

*The date of this Official Statement is ~~January~~July \_\_, 2026.*

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\* Preliminary, subject to change.

**BofA Securities**

**[Co-Manager]**

~~May \_\_, 2026~~

**MATURITY SCHEDULE\***

<u>June 1</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>CUSIP<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>June 1</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>CUSIP<sup>(1)</sup></u>
20	\$				20	\$			
20					20				
20					20				
20					20				
20					20				
20					20				
20					20				
20					20				
20					20				
20					20				

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(1) CUSIP is a registered trademark of the American Bankers Association. CUSIP Global Services (CGS) is managed on behalf of the American Bankers Association by FactSet Research Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. CUSIP numbers are set forth herein for the convenience of reference only. Neither the State of North Carolina nor its agents take responsibility for the accuracy of such data. None of the County, the Underwriters or the municipal advisor is responsible for the accuracy of such data.

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\* Preliminary, subject to change.

**COUNTY OF DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

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**Board of Commissioners**

Michael Lee .....Chair

Nida Allam..... Vice Chair

Michelle Burton

Wendy Jacobs

Stephen Valentine

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**Select County Staff**

Claudia Hager .....County Manager

Crystally Wright..... Chief Financial Officer

Larissa S. Williamson .....County Attorney

Monica W. Wallace .....Clerk to the Board

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**Municipal Advisor**

DEC Associates, Inc.  
Charlotte, North Carolina

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**Bond Counsel**

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP  
Raleigh, North Carolina

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE DIVISION  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

**[\$Amount]\***  
**County of Durham, North Carolina**  
**General Obligation Refunding Bonds,**  
**Series 2026B**

**INTRODUCTION**

This Official Statement, including the cover page and the appendices hereto, is intended to furnish information in connection with the purchase of **[\$Amount]\*** General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2026B (the “2026 Bonds”) of the County of Durham, North Carolina (the “County”).

The information furnished herein includes a brief description of the County and its economic condition, government, debt management, tax structure, financial operations, budget, pension plans and contingent liabilities.

This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the 2026 Bonds offered hereby, nor shall there be any offer or solicitation of such offer or sale of the 2026 Bonds in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such offer, solicitation or sale. Neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor the sale of any of the 2026 Bonds implies that the information herein is correct as of any date subsequent to the date hereof. The information contained herein is subject to change after the date of this Official Statement, and this Official Statement speaks only as of its date.

This Official Statement is deemed to be a final official statement with respect to the 2026 Bonds within the meaning of Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (“Rule 15c2-12”) except, when it is in preliminary form, for the omission of certain pricing and other information. In accordance with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12, the County has agreed in a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County to certain continuing disclosure obligations. See the caption “**CONTINUING DISCLOSURE**” herein.

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION OF NORTH CAROLINA**

The Local Government Commission (the “Commission”), a division of the Department of State Treasurer, State of North Carolina (the “State”), is a State agency that supervises the issuance of the bonded indebtedness of all units of local government and assists these units in the area of fiscal management. *Appendix D* to this Official Statement contains additional information concerning the Commission and its functions.

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\* Preliminary, subject to change.

## THE 2026 BONDS

### Description

The 2026 Bonds will be dated as of their date of delivery and will bear interest from their date. Interest on the 2026 Bonds will be payable semiannually on each June 1 and December 1, commencing December 1, 2026. The 2026 Bonds will mature on the dates set forth on the inside cover page of this Official Statement. Interest on the 2026 Bonds will be paid on the interest payment date to the person appearing on the books of the County as the registered owner of the 2026 Bonds as of the close of business on the 15th day of the month preceding such interest payment date.

The 2026 Bonds will be issuable as fully registered bonds in a book-entry system maintained by The Depository Trust Company (“DTC”). DTC will act as securities depository for the 2026 Bonds. Purchases and transfers of the 2026 Bonds may be made only in denominations of \$5,000 and in accordance with the practices and procedures of DTC. See *Appendix G* hereto for a description of the book-entry system and DTC.

### Redemption Provisions

The 2026 Bonds maturing prior to June 1, 20\_\_ will not be subject to redemption prior to maturity. The 2026 Bonds maturing on June 1, 20\_\_ and thereafter will be redeemable, at the option of the County, from any moneys that may be made available for such purpose, either in whole or in part on any date not earlier than June 1, 20\_\_, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2026 Bonds to be redeemed, together with interest accrued thereon to the date fixed for redemption.

If less than all of the 2026 Bonds of any one maturity shall be called for redemption, the County shall select the maturity or maturities of the 2026 Bonds to be redeemed in such manner as the County in its discretion may determine, and DTC and its participants shall determine which 2026 Bonds within a maturity are to be redeemed in accordance with its rules and procedures; provided, however, that the portion of any 2026 Bond to be redeemed must be in principal amount of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof and that, in selecting 2026 Bonds for redemption, each 2026 Bond is to be considered as representing that number of 2026 Bonds which is obtained by dividing the principal amount of such Bond by \$5,000.

When the County elects to redeem any 2026 Bonds, notice of such redemption of such 2026 Bonds, stating the redemption date, redemption price, any conditions to the redemption and identifying the 2026 Bonds or portions thereof to be redeemed and further stating that on such redemption date there are due and payable on each 2026 Bond or portion thereof so to be redeemed, the principal thereof and interest accrued to the redemption date and that from and after such date interest thereon shall cease to accrue, is to be given not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days before the redemption date in writing to DTC or its nominee as the registered owner of such 2026 Bonds, by prepaid certified or registered United States mail (or by such other means as may be permitted by DTC’s rules and procedures), at the address provided to the County by DTC, but any failure or defect in respect of such mailing will not affect the validity of the redemption. If DTC, or its nominee, is not the registered owner of

such 2026 Bonds, the County will give notice at the time set forth above by prepaid first class United States mail, to the then-registered owners of such 2026 Bonds or portions thereof to be redeemed at the last address shown on the registration books kept by the County.

If at the time of mailing of the notice of redemption there is not on deposit money sufficient to redeem the 2026 Bonds called for redemption, such notice may state that it is conditional on the deposit of money for the redemption on the date of redemption as set forth in the notice. Any notice, once given, may be withdrawn by notice delivered in the same manner as the notice of redemption was given.

### **Authorizations and Purposes**

The 2026 Bonds are being issued pursuant to the provisions of The Local Government Bond Act, as amended, Article 7, as amended, of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina.

The 2026 Bonds are to be issued pursuant to a bond order adopted on April 13~~27~~, 2026 by the Board of Commissioners of the County, effective as of the date of adoption. Terms of the 2026 Bonds were established in the resolution duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners on April 13~~27~~, 2026 (the “*Bond Resolution*”).

Proceeds of the 2026 Bonds are being used to refund existing obligations of the County. See “**THE PLAN OF REFUNDING**” below.

### **Security**

The County is authorized and required by law to levy on all property taxable by the County such *ad valorem* taxes, without limitation as to rate or amount, as may be necessary to pay the 2026 Bonds and the interest thereon.

### **THE PLAN OF REFUNDING**

~~In August 2023, the~~The County previously issued (1) its General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds, Series 2014 (the “2014 Bonds”), originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$44,635,000, (2) its General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2016 (the “2016 Bonds”), originally issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$96,460,000, and (3) its General Obligation Bond, Series 2023A (the “2023 Bond”) ~~under~~, originally issued in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$185,000,000.

A portion of the proceeds of the 2026 Bonds will be used to refund all or a portion of the 2014 Bonds (the “Refunded 2014 Bonds”) by sending such proceeds to DTC or its nominee, as registered owner of the 2014 Bonds, [on the date of delivery of the 2026 Bonds] to redeem the Refunded 2014 Bonds on such date at a redemption price of 100% plus accrued interest.

A portion of the proceeds of the 2026 Bonds will be deposited with U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as escrow agent (the “Escrow Agent”), pursuant to an Escrow Agreement (the “Escrow Agreement”) between the County and the Escrow Agent. Funds held by the Escrow Agent will be applied to purchase securities maturing at times and in amounts

sufficient to provide funds, together with any uninvested funds on deposit, to pay interest on the Refunded 2016 Bonds through their redemption date and to redeem the Refunded 2016 Bonds on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, as set forth in the Escrow Agreement.

The 2023 Bond evidenced a drawdown arrangement with Bank of America, National Association, under which the County would make periodic draws to pay costs of certain school projects ~~(the “2023 Projects”) authorized under a bond order adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County and made effective on the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified voters of the County at a referendum held on November 8, 2022.~~

~~The 2026 Bonds are being issued to provide funds to pay the costs of redeeming the outstanding portion of the 2023 Bond in order to provide long term financing for the 2023 Projects. From~~ A portion of the proceeds of the 2026 Bonds, ~~the State Treasurer of the State of North Carolina shall cause the transfer of an amount as~~ will be provided ~~in the Pricing Certificate~~ to Bank of America, National Association, as the holder of the 2023 Bond, ~~to redeem the 2023 Bond in full~~ to redeem the 2023 Bond in full on such date.

### ESTIMATED SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

The following table presents information as to the estimated sources and uses of funds:

#### Sources of Funds:

Par Amount of 2026 Bonds	\$
[Plus/Less] [Net] Original Issue [Premium/Discount]	
[County Contribution] <sup>1</sup>	
TOTAL	\$ _____

#### Uses of Funds:

<u>Cost of Refunding the Refunded 2014 Bonds</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>Cost of Refunding the Refunded 2016 Bonds</u>	
Cost of Redeeming 2023 Bond <sup>2</sup>	\$
Costs of Issuance <sup>3</sup>	
TOTAL	\$ _____

<sup>1</sup> [To pay accrued interest on \_\_\_\_\_ the 2023 Bond.]

<sup>2</sup> Bank of America, National Association is the holder of the 2023 Bond. Both Bank of America, National Association and BofA Securities, Inc. are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation.

<sup>3</sup> Includes legal fees, printing costs, Underwriters’ discount, rating agency fees, the municipal advisor’s fee and other miscellaneous transaction costs.

### THE COUNTY

See *Appendix A* hereto for certain information regarding the County. The Management’s Discussion and Analysis of the financial activities of the County, lifted from the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the County for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025,

is included as *Appendix B*. The County's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 are contained in *Appendix C* hereto.

## CONTINUING DISCLOSURE

In accordance with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12, the County has undertaken in the Bond Resolution to provide to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the "MSRB"):

- (1) by not later than seven months after the end of each fiscal year, beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the audited financial statements of the County for such fiscal year, if available, prepared in accordance with Section 159-34 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, as it may be amended from time to time, or any successor statute, or if such audited financial statements are not then available, unaudited financial statements of the County for such fiscal year to be replaced subsequently by audited financial statements of the County to be delivered within 15 days after such audited financial statements become available for distribution;
- (2) by not later than seven months after the end of each fiscal year, beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the financial and statistical data as of a date not earlier than the end of such fiscal year for the type of information included under the captions "**THE COUNTY—Debt Information** " and "**—Tax Information**" (excluding information on overlapping units), to the extent such items are not included in the audited financial statements referred to in clause (1) above;
- (3) in a timely manner not in excess of 10 business days after the occurrence of the event, notice of any of the following events with respect to the 2026 Bonds:
  - (a) principal and interest payment delinquencies;
  - (b) non-payment related defaults, if material;
  - (c) unscheduled draws on the debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
  - (d) unscheduled draws on any credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
  - (e) substitution of any credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
  - (f) adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form

5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the 2026 Bonds or other material events affecting the tax status of the 2026 Bonds;

(g) modification of the rights of the Beneficial Owners of the 2026 Bonds, if material;

(h) call of any of the 2026 Bonds for redemption, other than mandatory sinking fund redemption, if material, and tender offers;

(i) defeasance of any of the 2026 Bonds;

(j) release, substitution or sale of any property securing repayment of the 2026 Bonds, if material;

(k) rating changes;

(l) bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the County;

(m) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the County or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the County, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material;

(n) the appointment of a successor or additional trustee, or the change in the name of a trustee, if material; and

(o) incurrence of a financial obligation of the County, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation of the County, any of which affect the beneficial owners of the 2026 Bonds, if material; and

(p) default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of the financial obligation of the County, any of which reflect financial difficulties; and

(4) in a timely manner, notice of a failure of the County to provide required annual financial information described in (1) and (2) above on or before the date specified.

At present, Section 159-34 of the General Statutes of North Carolina requires that the County's financial statements be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and that they be audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

For purposes of the preceding paragraphs (o) and (p), the term "financial obligation" means a (i) debt obligation, (ii) derivative instrument entered into in connection with, or pledged as security or a source of payment for, an existing or planned debt obligation, or (iii) guarantee of either (i) or (ii). The term "financial obligation" shall not include municipal securities as to which a final official statement has been provided to the MSRB consistent with

## Rule 15c2-12.

The County acknowledges in the Bond Resolution that its undertaking pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 is intended to be for the benefit of the Owners and the beneficial owners of the 2026 Bonds. The Bond Resolution provides that if the County fails to comply with the undertaking described above, any registered owner or beneficial owner of the 2026 Bonds may take action to enforce the rights of all beneficial owners with respect to such undertaking, including an action for specific performance; provided, however, that failure by the County to comply with such undertaking will not be an event of default under the Bond Resolution and will not result in acceleration of the payment of the 2026 Bonds. All actions must be instituted, had and maintained in the manner provided in the Bond Resolution for the benefit of all registered owners and beneficial owners of the 2026 Bonds.

[The County is not aware of any instances in the last five years in which it has failed to comply with an undertaking made pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 in any material respect.]

The County may modify from time to time, consistent with Rule 15c2-12, the information provided or the format of the presentation of such information, to the extent necessary or appropriate in the judgment of the County, but: (1) any such modification may only be made in connection with a change in circumstances that arises from a change in legal requirements, change in law or change in the identity, nature or status of the County; (2) the information to be provided, as modified, would have complied with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12 as of the date of this Official Statement, after taking into account any amendments or interpretations of Rule 15c2-12 as well as any changes in circumstances; and (3) any such modification does not materially impair the interest of the Owners or the beneficial owners, as determined by nationally recognized bond counsel or by the approving vote of the Owners of a majority in principal amount of the 2026 Bonds then outstanding. Any annual financial information containing modified operating data or financial information will explain, in narrative form, the reasons for the modification and the impact of the change in the type of operating data or financial information being provided. The County's Rule 15c2-12 undertakings will terminate on payment, or provision having been made for payment in a manner consistent with the Rule 15c2-12, in full of the principal of and interest on the 2026 Bonds.

All documents provided to the MSRB as described above will be provided in an electronic format as prescribed by the MSRB and accompanied by identifying information as prescribed by the MSRB. The County may discharge its undertaking described above by transmitting those documents or notices in a manner subsequently required by the SEC in lieu of the manner described above.

### **APPROVAL OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

Certain legal matters incident to the authorization and issuance of the 2026 Bonds are subject to the approval of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, Raleigh, North Carolina (“*Bond Counsel*”), whose approving legal opinion will be available at the time of the delivery of the 2026 Bonds. The proposed form of such opinion is attached hereto as *Appendix F*.

## **RATINGS**

Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and S&P Global Ratings have given the 2026 Bonds ratings of "\_\_\_\_" and "\_\_\_\_," respectively. Those ratings reflect only the respective views of such organizations, and an explanation of the significance of such ratings may be obtained only from the respective organization providing such rating. Certain information and materials not included in the Official Statement were furnished to such organizations. There is no assurance that such ratings will remain in effect for any given period of time or that any or all will not be revised downward or withdrawn entirely. Any downward revision or withdrawal of a rating may have an adverse effect on the market prices of the 2026 Bonds.

## **TAX TREATMENT**

### **General**

On the date of issuance of the 2026 Bonds, Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, Bond Counsel, will render an opinion that, under existing law (1) assuming compliance by the County with certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "*Code*"), interest on the 2026 Bonds (a) is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes and (b) is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax, provided, however, such interest is taken into account in determining the annual adjusted financial statement income of applicable corporations (as defined in Section 59(k) of the Code) for the purpose of computing the alternative minimum tax imposed on corporations.

The Code imposes various restrictions, conditions and requirements relating to the exclusion of interest on obligations, such as the 2026 Bonds, from gross income for federal income tax purposes, including, but not limited to, the requirement that the County rebate certain excess earnings on proceeds and amounts treated as proceeds of the 2026 Bonds to the United States Treasury, restrictions on the investment of such proceeds and other amounts, and restrictions on the ownership and use of the facilities financed or refinanced with proceeds of the 2026 Bonds. The foregoing is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of the post-issuance tax compliance requirements of the Code, but is illustrative of the requirements that must be satisfied by the County subsequent to issuance of the 2026 Bonds to maintain the excludability of the interest on the 2026 Bonds from gross income for federal income tax purposes. Bond Counsel's opinion is given in reliance on certifications by representatives of the County as to certain facts material to the opinion and the requirements of the Code.

The County has covenanted to comply with all requirements of the Code that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the 2026 Bonds in order that the interest on the 2026 Bonds be, or continue to be, excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The opinion of Bond Counsel assumes compliance by the County with such covenants, and Bond Counsel has not been retained to monitor compliance by the County with such covenants subsequent to the date of issuance of the 2026 Bonds. Failure to comply with certain of such requirements may cause the interest on the 2026 Bonds to be included in gross income for

federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of issuance of the 2026 Bonds. No other opinion is expressed by Bond Counsel regarding the federal tax consequences of the ownership of or the receipt, accrual or amount of interest with respect to the 2026 Bonds.

If the interest on the 2026 Bonds subsequently becomes included in gross income for federal income tax purposes due to a failure by the County to comply with any requirements described above, the County is not required to redeem the 2026 Bonds or to pay any additional interest or penalty.

The Internal Revenue Service has established an ongoing program to audit tax-exempt obligations to determine whether interest on such obligations is includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes. Bond Counsel cannot predict whether the Internal Revenue Service will commence an audit of the 2026 Bonds. Prospective purchasers and owners of the 2026 Bonds are advised that, if the Internal Revenue Service does audit the 2026 Bonds, under current Internal Revenue Service procedures, at least during the early stages of an audit, the Internal Revenue Service will treat the County as the taxpayer, and the owners of the 2026 Bonds may have limited rights, if any, to participate in such audit. The commencement of an audit could adversely affect the market value and liquidity of the 2026 Bonds until the audit is concluded, regardless of the ultimate outcome.

Prospective purchasers and owners of the 2026 Bonds should be aware that ownership of the 2026 Bonds and the accrual or receipt of interest on the 2026 Bonds may result in collateral federal income tax consequences to certain taxpayers, including, without limitation, financial institutions, property or casualty insurance companies, individual recipients of Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits, certain Subchapter S Corporations with “excess net passive income,” foreign corporations subject to the branch profits tax, life insurance companies and taxpayers who may be deemed to have incurred or continued indebtedness to purchase or carry the 2026 Bonds. Bond Counsel does not express any opinion as to any such collateral tax consequences. Prospective purchasers and owners of the 2026 Bonds should consult their own tax advisors as to collateral tax consequences.

Proposed legislation is considered from time to time by the United States Congress that, if enacted, would affect the tax consequences of owning the 2026 Bonds. No assurance can be given that any future legislation, or clarifications or amendments to the Code, if enacted into law, will not contain provisions which could cause the interest on the 2026 Bonds to be subject directly or indirectly to federal, state, or local income taxation, adversely affect the market price or marketability of the 2026 Bonds or otherwise prevent the owners of the 2026 Bonds from realizing the full current benefit of the status of the interest on the 2026 Bonds.

Bond Counsel’s opinion is based on existing law, which is subject to change. Such opinion is further based on factual representations made to Bond Counsel as of the date thereof. Bond Counsel assumes no duty to update or supplement its opinion to reflect any facts or circumstances that may thereafter come to Bond Counsel’s attention, or to reflect any changes in law that may thereafter occur or become effective. Moreover, Bond Counsel’s opinion is not a guarantee of a particular result, and is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service or the courts; rather, such opinion represents Bond Counsel’s professional judgment based on its review of existing law, and in reliance on the representations and covenants that Bond Counsel

deems relevant to such opinion. Bond Counsel's opinion expresses the professional judgment of the attorneys rendering the opinion regarding the legal issues expressly addressed therein. By rendering its opinion, Bond Counsel does not become an insurer or guarantor of the result indicated by that expression of professional judgment, of the transaction on which the opinion is rendered, or of the future performance of the County, nor does the rendering of such opinion guarantee the outcome of any legal dispute that may arise out of the transaction.

An owner of a 2026 Bond may be subject to backup withholding at the applicable rate determined by statute with respect to interest paid on the 2026 Bond if such owner fails to provide to any person required to collect information in accordance with Section 6049 of the Code with such owner's taxpayer identification number, furnishes an incorrect taxpayer identification number, fails to report interest, dividends or other "reportable payments" described in Section 6049 of the Code properly, or, under certain circumstances, fails to provide such persons with a certified statement, under penalty of perjury, that such owner is not subject to backup withholding.

### **Original Issue Discount**

As indicated on the inside cover page, the 2026 Bonds maturing on June 1, 20\_\_ (the "*OID Bonds*"), are being sold at initial offering prices which are less than the principal amount payable at maturity. Under the Code, the difference between (a) the initial offering prices to the public (excluding bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers) at which a substantial amount of each maturity of the OID Bonds is sold and (b) the principal amount payable at maturity of such OID Bonds, constitutes original issue discount treated as interest which will be excluded from the gross income of the owners of such OID Bonds for federal income tax purposes.

In the case of an owner of an OID Bond, the amount of original issue discount on such OID Bond is treated as having accrued daily over the term of such OID Bond on the basis of a constant yield compounded at the end of each accrual period and is added to the owner's cost basis of such OID Bond in determining, for federal income tax purposes, the gain or loss upon the sale, redemption or other disposition of such OID Bond (including its sale, redemption or payment at maturity). Amounts received upon the sale, redemption or other disposition of an OID Bond which are attributable to accrued original issue discount on such OID Bonds will be treated as interest exempt from gross income, rather than as a taxable gain, for federal income tax purposes, and will not be a specific item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax. However, it should be noted that the original issue discount that accrues to an owner of an OID bond may result in other collateral federal income tax consequences for certain taxpayers in the year of the accrual.

Original issue discount is treated as compounding semiannually (which yield is based on the initial public offering price of such OID Bond) at a rate determined by reference to the yield to maturity of each individual OID Bond. The amount treated as original issue discount on an OID Bond for a particular semiannual accrual period is equal to (a) the product of (i) the yield to maturity for such OID Bond (determined by compounding at the close of each accrual period) and (ii) the amount which would have been the tax basis of such OID Bond at the beginning of the particular accrual period if held by the original purchaser, less (b) the amount

of interest payable on such OID Bond during the particular accrual period. The tax basis is determined by adding to the initial public offering price on such OID Bond the sum of the amounts which have been treated as original issue discount for such purposes during all prior accrual periods. If an OID Bond is sold between semiannual compounding dates, original issue discount which would have accrued for that semiannual compounding period for federal income tax purposes is to be apportioned in equal amounts among the days in such compounding period.

The Code contains additional provisions relating to the accrual of original issue discount in the case of owners of the OID Bonds who subsequently purchase any OID Bonds after the initial offering or at a price different from the initial offering price during the initial offering of the 2026 Bonds. Owners of OID Bonds should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the precise determination for federal and state tax purposes of the amount of original issue discount accrued upon the sale, redemption or other disposition of an OID Bond as of any date and with respect to other federal, state and local tax consequences of owning and disposing of an OID Bond. It is possible that under the applicable provisions governing the determination of state or local taxes, accrued original issue discount on an OID Bond may be deemed to be received in the year of accrual even though there will not be a corresponding cash payment attributable to such original issue discount until a later year.

### **Original Issue Premium**

As indicated on the inside cover page, the 2026 Bonds maturing on June 1, 20\_\_ (the “*Premium Bonds*”) are being sold at initial offering prices which are in excess of the principal amount payable at maturity. The difference between (a) the initial offering prices to the public (excluding bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers) at which a substantial amount of the Premium Bonds is sold and (b) the principal amount payable at maturity of such Premium Bonds constitutes original issue premium, which original issue premium is not deductible for federal income tax purposes. In the case of an owner of a Premium Bond, however, the amount of the original issue premium which is treated as having accrued over the term of such Premium Bond, is reduced from the owner’s cost basis of such Premium Bond in determining, for federal income tax purposes, the taxable gain or loss upon the sale, redemption or other disposition of such Premium Bond (whether upon its sale, redemption or payment at maturity). Owners of Premium Bonds should consult their tax advisors with respect to the determination, for federal income tax purposes, of the “adjusted basis” of such Premium Bonds upon any sale or disposition and with respect to any state or local tax consequences of owning a Premium Bond.

## **INVESTMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Bankruptcy**

The County is a unit of state government and therefore is not subject to the involuntary procedures of Title 11 of the United States Code (the “*Bankruptcy Code*”). Pursuant to Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code, a local governmental unit that satisfies the requirements of section 109(c) of the Bankruptcy Code may seek voluntary protection from its creditors for purposes of adjusting its debts. However, under North Carolina law, a local governmental unit such as the

County may not file for bankruptcy protection without the consent of the Commission. While the 2026 Bonds are outstanding, the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and applicable North Carolina law may be amended, supplemented or repealed; therefore, it is not possible to predict whether and under what conditions the County may be authorized to become a debtor in a bankruptcy case and how any such bankruptcy case might affect holders of the 2026 Bonds in the future.

If the County were to initiate bankruptcy proceedings under Chapter 9 with the consent of the Commission, the bankruptcy proceedings could have material and adverse effects on holders of the 2026 Bonds, including (1) the application of the automatic stay provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, which, until relief is granted, would prevent collection of payments from the County or the commencement of any judicial or other action for the purpose of recovering or collecting a claim against the County; (2) the incurrence of additional debt, including the claims of those supplying goods and services to the County after the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings and the expenses of administering the bankruptcy case, which may have a priority of payment superior to that of the Bondholders; and (3) the possibility of the adoption of a plan for the adjustment of the County's debt without the consent of all of the Bondholders, which plan may restructure, delay, compromise or reduce the amount of the claim of the Bondholders if the bankruptcy court finds that such a plan is fair and equitable. The effect of the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code on the rights and remedies of the Bondholders cannot be predicted with certainty and may be affected significantly by judicial interpretation, general principles of equity, and considerations of public policy.

Regardless of any specific adverse determinations in a bankruptcy case of the County, the fact of such a bankruptcy case could have an adverse effect on the liquidity and value of the 2023 Bonds.

### **Cybersecurity**

The County, like many other large public and private entities, relies on a large and complex technology environment to conduct its operations and faces multiple cybersecurity threats including, but not limited to, hacking, phishing, viruses, malware and other attacks on its computing and other digital networks and systems (collectively, "*Systems Technology*"). As a recipient and provider of personal, private, or sensitive information, the County has been and may be in the future the target of cybersecurity incidents that could result in adverse consequences to the County and its Systems Technology, requiring a response action to mitigate the consequences. Cybersecurity incidents could result from unintentional events, or from deliberate attacks by unauthorized entities or individuals attempting to gain access to the County's System Technology for the purpose of misappropriating assets or information or causing operational disruption and damage.

[Any cyber attacks in the last five years?]

The County has deployed various security measures to monitor and defend against malicious activity and while the County's cybersecurity and operational safeguards are periodically tested, no assurances can be given by the County that such measures will ensure against other cybersecurity threats and attacks. Cybersecurity breaches could cause material

disruption to the County's finances or operations. The costs of remedying any such damage or protecting against future attacks could be substantial. Further, cybersecurity breaches could expose the County to material litigation and other legal risks, which could cause the County to incur material costs related to such legal claims or proceedings.

### **Natural Disasters and Climate Change**

Numerous scientific studies on global climate change demonstrate that, among other effects on the global ecosystem, sea levels will rise, extreme temperatures will become more common and extreme weather events will become more frequent because of increasing global temperatures attributable to atmospheric pollution. In the coming years, such extreme events and conditions are expected to increasingly disrupt and damage critical infrastructure and property as well as regional economies and industries that depend on nature resources and favorable climate conditions. Disruptions could include more frequent and longer-lasting power outages, fuel shortages, supply chain delays and service disruptions. The County cannot predict the timing, extent or severity of climate change and its impacts on operations and financial condition.

## **UNDERWRITING**

BofA Securities, Inc., Charlotte, North Carolina, and [Co-Manager] are serving as the underwriters (together, the “*Underwriters*”) for the 2026 Bonds. The Underwriters have agreed to purchase the 2026 Bonds under a Bond Purchase Agreement at a purchase price for the 2026 Bonds equal to the aggregate principal amount of the 2026 Bonds [plus/less] [net] original issue [premium/discount] of \$\_\_\_\_\_ less an Underwriters’ discount equal to \$\_\_\_\_\_. The 2026 Bonds were offered for sale to the public at the prices shown on the inside cover page of this Official Statement. The Underwriters are committed to take and pay for all of the 2026 Bonds if any are taken.

BofA Securities, Inc., one of the Underwriters of the 2026 Bonds, has entered into a distribution agreement with its affiliate Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (“*MLPF&S*”). As part of this arrangement, BofA Securities, Inc. may distribute securities to MLPF&S, which may in turn distribute such securities to investors through the financial advisor network of MLPF&S. As part of this arrangement, BofA Securities, Inc. may compensate MLPF&S as a dealer for its selling efforts with respect to the 2026 Bonds.

The Underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include sales and trading, commercial and investment banking, lending, advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, market making, brokerage and other financial and non-financial activities and services. Under certain circumstances, the Underwriters and their respective affiliates may have certain creditor and/or other rights against the State or the County and its affiliates in connection with such activities. In the course of its various business activities, the Underwriters and their respective affiliates, officers, directors and employees may purchase, sell or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade securities, derivatives, loans, commodities, currencies, credit default swaps and other financial instruments for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and trading activities may involve or relate to assets, securities and/or instruments of the State or the County (directly, as collateral securing other obligations or

otherwise) and/or persons and entities with relationships with the State or the County. The Underwriters and their respective affiliates may also communicate independent investment recommendations, market color or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such assets, securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they should acquire, long and/or short positions in such assets, securities and instruments.

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP serves as bond counsel for the County and, from time to time it and Chapman and Cutler LLP, counsel to the Underwriters, have represented the Underwriters as counsel in other financing transactions. Neither the County nor the Underwriter has conditioned the future employment of either of these firms in connection with any proposed financing issues for the County or for the Underwriters on the successful issuance of the 2026 Bonds.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Any statements in the Official Statement involving matters of opinion or estimates, whether or not expressly so stated, are intended as such and not as representations of fact.

Reference herein to the State Constitution and legislative enactments are only brief outlines of certain provisions thereof and do not purport to summarize or describe all provisions thereof.

**APPENDIX A**  
**THE COUNTY**

**APPENDIX B**

**MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**APPENDIX C**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE COUNTY**

**APPENDIX D**

**THE NORTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

The Local Government Commission (the “Commission”) is composed of nine members: the State Treasurer, the Secretary of State, the State Auditor, the Secretary of Revenue and five others by appointment (three by the Governor, one by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives). The State Treasurer serves as Chairman and selects the Secretary of the Commission, who heads the administrative staff serving the Commission.

A major function of the Commission is the approval, sale and delivery of substantially all North Carolina local government bonds and notes. A second key function is monitoring certain fiscal and accounting standards prescribed for units of local government by The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. In addition, the Commission furnishes, upon request, on-site assistance to units of local government concerning existing financial and accounting systems as well as aid in establishing new systems. Further, educational programs and materials are provided for local officials concerning finance and cash management.

Before any unit of local government can incur bonded indebtedness, the proposed bond issue must be approved by the Commission. In determining whether to give such approval the Commission may consider, among other things, the unit's debt management procedures and policies, its compliance with The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act and its ability to service the proposed debt. The Commission maintains records for all units of local government of principal and interest payments coming due on bonded indebtedness in the current and future years and monitors the payment by the units of local government of debt service through a system of monthly reports.

As a part of its role in assisting and monitoring the fiscal programs of units of local government, the Commission attempts to ensure that the units of local government follow generally accepted accounting principles, systems and practices. The Commission's staff also counsels the units of local government in treasury and cash management, budget preparation and investment policies and procedures. Educational programs, in the form of seminars or classes, are also provided by the Commission in order to accomplish these tasks. The monitoring of the financial systems of units of local government is accomplished through the examination and analysis of the annual audited financial statements and other required reports. The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act requires each unit of local government to have its accounts audited annually by a certified public accountant or by an accountant certified by the Commission as qualified to audit local government accounts. A written contract must be submitted to the Secretary of the Commission for his approval prior to the commencement of the audit.

The Commission has the statutory authority to impound the books and records of any unit of local government and assume full control of all its financial affairs (a) when the unit defaults on any debt service payment or, in the opinion of the Commission, will default on a future debt service payment if the financial policies and practices of the unit are not improved or (b) when the unit persists, after notice and warning from the Commission, in willfully or negligently failing or refusing to comply with the provisions of The Local Government Finance Act. When the Commission takes action under this authority, the Commission is vested with all of the powers of the governing board of the unit of local government as to the levy of taxes,

expenditure of money, adoption of budgets and all other financial powers conferred upon such governing board by law.

In addition, if a unit of local government fails to pay any installment of principal or interest on its outstanding debt on or before its due date and remains in default for 90 days, the Commission may take such action as it deems advisable to investigate the unit's fiscal affairs, consult with its governing board and negotiate with its creditors in order to assist the unit in working out a plan for refinancing, adjusting or compromising such debt. When a plan is developed that the Commission finds to be fair and equitable and reasonably within the ability of the unit of local government to meet, the Commission will enter an order finding that the plan is fair, equitable and within the ability of the unit to meet and will advise the unit to take the necessary steps to implement such plan. If the governing board of the unit declines or refuses to do so within 90 days after receiving the Commission's advice, the Commission may enter an order directing the unit to implement such plan and may apply for a court order to enforce such order. When a refinancing plan has been put into effect, the Commission has the authority (a) to require any periodic financial reports on the unit's financial affairs that the Secretary deems necessary and (b) to approve reject the unit's annual budget ordinance. The governing board of the unit of local government must also obtain the approval of the Secretary of the Commission before adopting any annual budget ordinance. The power and authority granted to the Commission as described in this paragraph will continue with respect to a defaulting unit of local government until the Commission is satisfied that the unit has performed or will perform the duties required of it in the refinancing plan and until agreements made with the unit's creditors have been performed in accordance with such plan.

**APPENDIX E**

**CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL, STATUTORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS  
GOVERNING OR RELEVANT TO THE INCURRENCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION  
BONDED INDEBTEDNESS BY UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE  
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **Constitutional Provisions**

The North Carolina Constitution (the “Constitution”) requires the General Assembly to enact general laws relating to the borrowing of money secured by a pledge of the faith and credit and the contracting of other debts by counties, cities and towns, special districts and other units, authorities and agencies of local government and prohibits enactment of special or local acts on this subject. These general laws may be enacted for classes defined by population or other criteria.

The General Assembly has no power under the Constitution to authorize any unit of local government to contract debts secured by a pledge of its faith and credit unless approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the unit who vote thereon, except for the following purposes:

- (a) to fund or refund a valid existing debt;
- (b) to supply an unforeseen deficiency in the revenue;
- (c) to borrow in anticipation of the collection of taxes due and payable within the current fiscal year to an amount not exceeding 50% of such taxes;
- (d) to suppress riots or insurrections;
- (e) to meet emergencies immediately threatening the public health or safety, as conclusively determined in writing by the Governor; and
- (f) for purposes authorized by general laws uniformly applicable throughout the State, to the extent of two-thirds of the amount by which the issuing unit’s outstanding indebtedness was reduced during the next preceding fiscal year.

The Constitution requires that the power of taxation be exercised in a just and equitable manner, for public purposes only, and never be surrendered, suspended or contracted away. Since general obligation bonded indebtedness pledges the taxing power, it may therefore be incurred only for “public purposes.” The North Carolina Supreme Court determines what is and is not a public purpose within the meaning of the Constitution.

The Constitution requires voter approval for any unit of local government to give or lend its credit in aid of any person, association or corporation, and such lending of credit must be for public purposes as authorized by general law. A loan of credit is defined by the Constitution as occurring when a unit of local government exchanges its obligations with or in any way guarantees the debts of an individual, association or private corporation.

The Constitution does not impose a limit on the total indebtedness of a unit of local government.

Of the sources of revenue available to units of local government, only the property tax is subject to special Constitutional regulation. The Constitution does not mandate a general property tax; rather, it authorizes the General Assembly to classify property for taxation under two conditions: (1) each class of property selected for taxation must be taxed by uniform rule and

(2) every classification must be made by general law uniformly applicable to every unit of local government. No class of property is accorded exemption from ad valorem taxation by the Constitution except property belonging to the State, counties and municipal corporations. The General Assembly may exempt cemeteries and property held for educational, scientific, literary, cultural, charitable or religious purposes and, to a value not exceeding \$300, any personal property. The General Assembly may also exempt from taxation not exceeding \$1,000 in value of property used as the place of residence of the owner. Property of the United States is exempt by virtue of the supremacy clause of the United States Constitution.

The Constitution requires that any property tax must be levied for purposes authorized by general law uniformly applicable throughout the State, unless approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the unit of local government who vote thereon.

Under the Constitution, property taxes levied for unit-wide purposes must be levied uniformly throughout the territorial jurisdiction of the taxing unit, but the General Assembly may enact general laws authorizing the governing body of any county, city or town to define territorial areas and to levy taxes within those areas in order to finance, provide or maintain services, facilities and functions in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided or maintained for the entire county, city or town.

### **The Local Government Bond Act**

No unit of local government has authority to incur general obligation bonded indebtedness otherwise than in accordance with the limitations and procedures prescribed in The Local Government Bond Act, G.S. Ch. 159, Art. 4 (the "Act") and G.S. Ch. 159, Art. 7 or to issue short-term general obligation notes otherwise than in accordance with G.S. Ch. 159, Art. 9.

By statute, the faith and credit of the issuing unit are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on all bonds issued under the Act according to their terms, and the power and obligation of the issuing unit to levy taxes and raise other revenues for the prompt payment of installments of principal and interest or for the maintenance of sinking funds is unrestricted as to rate or amount.

The revenues of each utility or public service enterprise owned or leased by a unit of local government are required by statute to be applied in accordance with the following priorities: (1) to pay the operating, maintenance and capital outlay expenses of the utility or enterprise; (2) to pay when due the interest on and principal of outstanding bonds issued for capital projects that are or were a part of the utility or enterprise; and (3) for any other lawful purpose. In its discretion, an issuing unit may pledge the revenues (or any portion thereof) of a utility or enterprise for the payment of the interest on and principal of bonds issued under the Act to finance capital projects that are to become a part of the utility or enterprise.

Bonds may be issued only for purposes specifically authorized by the Act.

No bonds may be issued under the Act without the approval of the Local Government Commission. The criteria for approval have been summarized in the description of the powers of the Commission in Appendix B to this Official Statement.

The Act provides that, subject to certain exceptions, no bond order may be adopted by the governing body of a unit of local government unless it appears from a sworn statement of debt filed in connection therewith that the net debt of the unit does not exceed 8% of the assessed value of property subject to taxation by the issuing unit. Under current law, the mandated assessment ratio is 100% of appraised value. This limitation does not apply to funding and refunding bonds, bonds issued for water, gas or electric power purposes, or two or more of such purposes, certain sanitary sewer, sewage disposal or sewage purification plant bonds, bonds or notes issued for erosion control purposes or bonds or notes issued for the purposes of erecting jetties or other protective works to prevent encroachment by certain bodies of water.

“Net debt” is defined as gross debt less certain statutory exclusions and deductions. Gross debt, excluding therefrom debt incurred or to be incurred in anticipation of tax or other revenue collections or in anticipation of the sale of bonds other than funding or refunding bonds, is the sum of (i) outstanding debt evidenced by bonds, (ii) bonds authorized by orders introduced but not yet adopted, (iii) unissued bonds authorized by adopted orders and (iv) outstanding debt not evidenced by bonds. From gross debt are deducted (a) funding and refunding bonds (both those authorized by orders introduced but not yet adopted and those authorized but not yet issued), (b) the amount of money held in sinking funds or otherwise for the payment of any part of the principal of gross debt other than debt incurred for the purposes set forth in clause (e) below, (e) the amount of bonded debt included in gross debt and incurred, or to be incurred, for water, gas or electric light or power purposes, or two or more of such purposes, and certain bonded debt for sanitary sewer purposes, and (d) the amount of uncollected special assessments theretofore levied or estimated to be levied for local improvements for which any part of the gross debt (that is not otherwise deducted) was or is to be incurred, to the extent that the special assessments, when collected, will be applied to the payment of any part of the gross debt. Revenue bond indebtedness is not included in, nor deducted from, gross debt.

Bonds may be issued under an approved bond order at any time within seven years after the bond order takes effect. The effective date of the bond order is the date of formal passage of the bond order in the case of bonds that do not require voter approval and the date of voter approval in all other cases. If the issuance of bonds is prevented or prohibited by any order of any court or certain litigation, the period of time is extended by the length of time elapsing between the date of institution of the action or litigation and the date of its final disposition. The General Assembly may, prior to the expiration of the maximum period, also extend such period. In addition, such period may be extended from seven to ten years by the governing body of a unit of local government under certain circumstances with approval by the Commission. In any such case, no further voter approval is required.

The Commission has by regulation established the maximum useful lives of capital projects that may be financed by bonds. The maturity dates of any bonds issued for any project may not exceed the maximum useful life of the project, measured from the date of the bonds.

All bonds must mature in annual installments, the first of which must be payable not more than three years after the date of the bonds and the last of which must be payable within the maximum useful life of the project. Payment of an installment of principal may be provided for by the maturity of a bond, mandatory redemption of principal prior to maturity, a sinking fund, a credit facility or any other means satisfactory to the Commission. In addition, the Act prohibits

“balloon installments” in that it requires that no installment of any issue may be greater than four times as large in amount as the smallest prior installment of the same issue. Bonds authorized by two or more bond orders may be consolidated into a single issue, and bonds of each issue may be issued from time to time in series with different provisions for each series. Each series is deemed a separate issue for the purposes of the limitations discussed in this paragraph. Bonds may be made payable from time to time on demand or tender for purchase as provided in the Act, and bonds may be made subject to redemption prior to maturity, with or without premium. The requirement that the bonds must mature in annual installments and the prohibition against balloon installments as described above does not apply to (a) refunding bonds, (b) bonds purchased by a State or federal agency or (c) bonds the interest on which is or may be includable in gross income for purposes of federal income tax, provided that the dates on which such bonds are stated to mature are approved by the Commission and the Commission may require that payment of all or any part of the principal of and interest and any premium on such bond be provided for by mandatory sinking fund redemption.

### **Short-Term Obligations**

*Bond Anticipation Notes* - Units of local government are authorized to issue short term notes in anticipation of the sale of bonds validly authorized for issuance within the maximum authorized amount of the bonds. General obligation bond anticipation notes must be payable not later than seven years after the effective date of the bond order and shall not be renewed or extended beyond that time unless the period of time within which the bonds may be issued has been extended as mentioned above. The faith and credit of the issuing unit are pledged for the payment of general obligation bond anticipation notes, and the power and obligation of the issuing unit to levy taxes and raise other revenues for the prompt payment of such notes is unrestricted as to rate or amount. The proceeds of each general obligation bond issue are also pledged for the payment of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale thereof, and any such notes shall be retired from the proceeds of the bonds as a first priority.

*Tax Anticipation Notes* - Units of local government having the power to levy taxes are authorized to borrow money for the purpose of paying appropriations made for the current fiscal year in anticipation of the collection of taxes due and payable within the current fiscal year, and to issue negotiable notes in evidence thereof. Any tax anticipation note must mature not later than 30 days after the close of the fiscal year in which it is issued and may not be renewed beyond that time. No tax anticipation note shall be issued by the unit of local government if the amount thereof, together with the amount of all authorized or outstanding tax anticipation notes on the date the note is authorized, would exceed 50% of the amount of taxes uncollected as of the date of the proposed note authorization. The faith and credit of the issuing unit are pledged for the payment of tax anticipation notes, and the power and obligation of the issuing unit to levy taxes and raise other revenues for the prompt payment of such notes is unrestricted as to rate or amount.

*Revenue Anticipation Notes* - Units of local government are authorized to borrow money for the purpose of paying appropriations made for the current fiscal year in anticipation of the receipt of the revenues, other than taxes, estimated in their budgets to be realized in cash during such fiscal year, and to issue negotiable notes in evidence thereof. Any revenue anticipation note must mature not later than 30 days after the close of the fiscal year in which it is issued and may not be renewed beyond that time. No revenue anticipation note shall be issued if the

amount thereof, together with the amount of all revenue anticipation notes authorized or outstanding on the date the note is authorized, would exceed 80% of the revenues of the issuing unit, other than taxes, estimated in its budget to be realized in cash during such fiscal year. Revenue anticipation notes are special obligations of the issuing unit, and neither the credit nor the taxing power of the issuing unit may be pledged for the payment of revenue anticipation notes.

*Grant Anticipation Notes* - Units of local government are authorized to borrow money for the purpose of paying appropriations made for capital projects in anticipation of the receipt of moneys from grant commitments for such capital projects from the State or the United States or any agencies of either, and to issue negotiable notes in evidence thereof. Grant anticipation notes must mature not later than 12 months after the estimated completion date of such capital project and may be renewed from time to time, but no such renewal shall mature later than 12 months after the estimated completion date of such capital project. No grant anticipation note may be issued if the amount thereof, together with the amount of all other notes authorized or issued in anticipation of the same grant commitment, exceeds 90% of the unpaid amount of said grant commitment. Grant anticipation notes are special obligations of the issuing unit, and neither the credit nor the taxing power of the issuing unit may be pledged for the payment of grant anticipation notes.

### **The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act**

The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, G.S. Ch. 159, Art. 3 (the “Fiscal Control Act”), sets forth procedures for the adoption and administration of budgets of units of local government. The Fiscal Control Act also prescribes certain accounting and auditing requirements. The Fiscal Control Act attempts to achieve close conformity with the accounting principles contained in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ Industry Audit Guide, Audits of State and Local Government Units.

*Budget* - The Fiscal Control Act requires the adoption of an annual balanced budget, which includes all appropriations required for debt service and for eliminating any deficit. Any deficit is required to be eliminated by the imposition of a property tax at a rate which will produce the revenue necessary to balance revenues and appropriations in the budget. The Secretary of the Commission is required to notify each local government unit by May 1 of each year of its debt service obligations for the coming fiscal year, including sums to be paid into sinking funds. At least 30 days prior to the due date of each installment of principal or interest on outstanding debt, the Secretary must notify each unit of the payment due, the due date, the place which the payments should be sent, and a summary of the legal penalties for failing to meet debt service obligations.

The Fiscal Control Act directs that the budget ordinance be adopted by the governing board of the unit of local government by July 1 of the fiscal year to which it applies. There is no penalty for failure to meet this deadline. The fiscal year begins July 1 and ends the following June 30. The governing board is required to hold a public hearing concerning the budget prior to its adoption. A project ordinance authorizing all appropriations necessary for the completion of a capital project or a grant project may be adopted in lieu of annual appropriations for each project and need not be readopted in any subsequent fiscal year.

*Fiscal Control* – The Fiscal Control Act sets forth certain fiscal control requirements concerning the duties of the finance officer; the system of accounting; budgetary accounting for appropriations; investment of idle funds; semiannual reports of financial information to the Commission; and an annual independent audit.

Except as otherwise provided by regulation of the Commission, the Fiscal Control Act requires a unit of local government to use the modified accrual basis of accounting in recording transactions. The Commission is empowered to prescribe regulations as to (a) features of accounting systems; (b) bases of accounting, including identifying in detail the characteristics of a modified accrual basis, identifying what revenues are susceptible to accrual, and permitting or requiring the use of a basis other than modified accrual in a fund that does not account for the receipt of a tax; and (c) definitions of terms not clearly defined in the Fiscal Control Act.

The Fiscal Control Act requires each unit of local government to have its accounts audited annually by an independent certified public accountant or by an independent accountant certified by the Commission as qualified to audit local government accounts. The audit must be conducted pursuant to a written contract containing the form, terms and fees for the audit. The Secretary of the Commission must approve this contract before the audit may begin and must approve invoices for the audit fee. Approval of final payment is not given until the audit report is rendered in accordance with the requirements of the contract. All audits are to be performed in conformity with generally accepted auditing standards.

### **Major General Fund Revenue Sources**

*Ad Valorem Tax* - Each unit of local government having authority to incur general obligation bonded indebtedness also has authority to levy ad valorem taxes on property having a situs within the unit. The ad valorem tax is levied on classes of property selected for taxation by the General Assembly through laws that are uniform throughout the State. The statute governing the listing, appraisal and assessment of property for taxation and the collection of taxes levied is the Machinery Act, G.S. Ch. 105, Subchapter II.

*Tax Base* - The basic class of property selected for taxation comprises all real and tangible personal property. Thus, unless a class of property is specifically excluded from the property tax base, exempted from taxation or specifically accorded some kind of preferential tax treatment, it must be taxed by each unit of local government exercising its authority to levy property taxes. Several classes of property have been selected for exclusion from the property tax base, exemption from taxation or taxation at reduced valuation or for special appraisal standards. The most significant of these classes are:

- (1) Tangible household personal property is excluded from the property tax base.
- (2) Stocks and bonds, accounts receivable and certain other types of intangible personal property are excluded from the property tax base.
- (3) Property belonging to certain qualified owners and used wholly and exclusively for religious, educational, charitable, cultural, fraternal or civic purposes is wholly exempted from taxation. Property belonging to the United States, the State and units

of local government is also exempt from taxation.

- (4) Real and personal property owned by certain nonprofit homes for the aged, sick or infirm are excluded from property taxation, provided such homes are exempt from the State income tax.
- (5) Certain kinds of tangible personal property held for business purposes are excluded from taxation, the most important of which are:
  - (a) Manufacturers' inventories (raw materials, goods in process, finished goods, materials or supplies consumed in processing, crops, livestock, poultry, feed used in production of livestock and poultry, and other agricultural or horticultural products held for sale) and inventories of retail and wholesale merchants (tangible personal property held for sale and not manufactured, processed or produced by the merchant).
  - (b) Property imported through a North Carolina seaport terminal and stored at such terminal for less than 12 months awaiting further shipment.
  - (c) Certain pollution abatement and resource recovery equipment.
  - (d) "Bill and hold" goods manufactured in North Carolina and held by the manufacturer for shipment to a nonresident customer.
  - (e) Nuclear materials held for or in the process of manufacture or processing or held by the manufacturer for delivery.
  - (f) Motor vehicle frames that belong to nonresidents and enter the State temporarily for the purpose of having a body mounted thereon.
- (6) A homestead exemption of the greater of \$25,000 or 50% of the appraised value of the residence is allowed if the property owner is a North Carolina resident, has income for the preceding calendar year of not more than the eligibility limit, and is at least 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled.
- (7) Certain agricultural, horticultural and forest land is eligible for taxation at its value for agricultural, horticultural or forest use

*Appraisal Standard* - All property must be appraised at its true value in money, except agricultural, horticultural and forest land eligible for appraisal at its present-use value. Property must be assessed for taxation at 100% of its appraised value.

*Frequency of Appraisal* - Real property must be appraised at least once in every eight years. The requirement of octennial real property revaluations has been enforced since 1965, and no taxing unit has been permitted to postpone a scheduled revaluation since that time. Many units revalue real property more frequently than every eight years. Personal property is appraised annually.

*Tax Day* - All real and tangible personal property (other than most motor vehicles) subject to ad valorem taxation must be listed for taxation as of January 1 each year. Motor vehicles, with certain exceptions, must be listed annually in the name of the record owner on the day on which the current vehicle registration is renewed or the day on which the application is submitted for a new vehicle registration.

*Tax Levy* - Property taxes are levied in conjunction with the adoption of a budget which covers a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. The property tax levy must be sufficient to raise during the fiscal year a sum of money equal to the difference between total appropriations and the total estimated receipts of all other revenues. In estimating the percentage of the levy that will be collected during the fiscal year, the taxing unit is prohibited from estimating a greater collection percentage than that of the prior fiscal year.

The tax rate may not exceed \$1.50 per \$100 assessed valuation unless the voters approve a higher rate. Tax levies by counties for the following purposes are not counted against the rate limit: courts, debt service, deficits, elections, jails, schools, mandated social services programs and joint undertakings with any other taxing unit with respect to any of these. Tax levies by cities for the following purposes are not counted against the rate limit: debt service, deficits and civil disorders.

*Tax Collection* - The taxing unit has a lien by operation of law on all real property within its jurisdiction that attaches as of January 1 for all taxes levied for the fiscal year beginning on the following July 1. Taxes levied on a parcel of real property are a lien on that parcel but not on other real property owned by the taxpayer. Taxes levied on personal property are a lien on all real property owned by the taxpayer within the taxing unit. The tax lien enjoys absolute priority against all other liens and claims whatsoever except, in limited circumstances, federal tax liens and certain other prior liens and perfected security interests.

Except for motor vehicles, taxes fall due on September 1 following the date of levy and are payable at par until January 6. For the period January 6 to February 1, interest accrues at the rate of 2%, and for the period February 1 until the principal amount of the taxes, the accrued interest, and any penalties are paid, interest accrues at the rate of 3/4% per month or fraction thereof. Each taxing unit may enforce collection of its tax levy by (a) foreclosure of the lien on real property, (b) levy and sale of tangible personal property and (c) garnishment and attachment of intangible personal property. There is no right of redemption of real property sold in a tax foreclosure action.

Discounts for early payment of property taxes are allowed by some taxing units. To allow such discounts, the unit must adopt a discount schedule which must then be approved by the Ad Valorem Tax Division of the Department of Revenue.

No taxing unit has authority to release or refund any valid tax claim. The members of any governing board voting to make an unlawful release or refund of property taxes are personally liable for the amount unlawfully released or refunded.

The Commission periodically publishes statistics on the percentage of property tax levies collected before the close of the fiscal year for which levied. These statistics are available upon

request.

Although the State has not levied a general property tax in more than forty years, it does continue general oversight of property tax administration by units of local government through the Ad Valorem Tax Division of the Department of Revenue. The Division has three main functions: (1) it appraises the property of electric power, gas, telephone and telegraph companies, the rolling stock of bus companies and motor freight carriers and the flight equipment of airlines; (2) it oversees local property tax administration; and (3) it provides staff assistance to the Property Tax Commission, an administrative appellate agency hearing listing and valuation appeals from local taxing units.

### **Local Government Sales and Use Taxes**

The one percent local sales and use tax authorized by the Local Government Sales and Use Tax Act is levied by 99 of the 100 counties of the State (Mecklenburg County levies a virtually identical tax under a 1967 local act). The local sales tax base is the same as the State general sales tax base excluding exempt food sales, except that for goods sold to out-of-county purchasers for delivery out-of-county and sales of certain utility services. The situs of a transaction is the location of the retailer's place of business. Sales of tangible personal property delivered to out-of-county purchasers will be subject to sales tax in the county in which the retailer's place of business is located and will not be subject to the use tax of the destination county. The tax is collected by the State on behalf of local government, and the net proceeds, after deduction of the cost of collection and administration, are returned to the county of collection. The county governing board selects one of two formulas for allocation of the tax among the county and the municipalities therein. One formula calls for allocation on the basis of population and the other on the basis of ad valorem tax levy.

Counties are also authorized under the Supplemental Local Government Sales and Use Tax Act to levy a one-half percent sales tax. This sales tax is collected by the State, allocated to counties on a per capita basis and divided among each county and the municipalities located therein in accordance with the method by which the one percent sales and use taxes are distributed. An adjustment factor is applied to the per capita allocation for each county. All 100 counties levy this one-half percent supplemental sales tax.

Counties are also authorized under the Additional Supplemental Local Government Sales and Use Tax Act to levy an additional one-half percent sales tax. This additional supplemental sales tax is collected and distributed based on a point-of-origin allocation. During the first 16 fiscal years in which this tax is in effect, 60% of the revenue derived by counties from this tax is required to be used for public school capital outlay purposes or to retire any indebtedness incurred by the county for these purposes during the period beginning five years prior to the date the taxes took effect. Counties may be relieved of the percentage restriction if it can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Local Government Commission that it is able to meet the aforementioned capital outlay needs without resorting to proceeds of such tax. All 100 counties levy this additional supplemental one-half percent sales tax.

### **Alcoholic Beverage Control Store Profits**

The sale of liquor in the State is a government monopoly. Stores are operated by counties and municipalities that have been authorized and have chosen to establish them. The net profits of these stores are distributed to the units of local government in which they operate. The General Assembly has enacted numerous local acts prescribing different formulas for the distribution of profits. Local elections are authorized to permit sales of liquor by the drink by qualified restaurants and clubs. An additional tax of \$20 per four liters is levied on liquor purchased by restaurants or clubs for resale as mixed beverages, and \$10 of the \$20 is paid to the State's General Fund.

### **Intragovernmental Shared Revenues**

The net amount of excise taxes collected by the State on beer, fortified and unfortified wine is shared with counties and municipalities in which the sale of these beverages is lawful. Counties and municipalities where beer and wine are sold receive on a per capita basis an annual distribution equal to the following percentages of the net amount of excise taxes collected on the sale of beer and wine during the 12-month period ending March 31 each year: 20.47 percent of malt beverage tax revenue, 49.44 percent of unfortified wine tax revenue and 18 percent of fortified wine tax revenue. A municipality or a county is eligible to share in both beer and wine excise tax revenues if beer and wine may legally be sold within its boundaries. If only one beverage may be sold at retail in a municipality located in a county in which the sale of such beverage is otherwise prohibited, only the municipality receives a portion of the amount distributed.

The State levies a tax on the gross receipts derived from the sale of electricity at the combined general rate prescribed by statute. The State distributes 44 percent of the net proceeds of such tax to municipalities, less certain administration costs. Each municipalities' share is calculated pursuant to a formula provided by statute.

The State levies a sales tax on the gross receipts derived from providing telecommunications and ancillary services at the statutorily prescribed combined general rate. Each quarter, the State distributes to municipalities 18.7 percent of the net proceeds from that quarter, minus \$2,620,948.

The State levies a tax on the gross receipts derived from the sale of piped natural gas at the combined general rate. The State distributes quarterly 20 percent of the net proceeds of such tax to municipalities, less certain administration costs. Each municipalities' share is calculated pursuant to a formula provided by statute, with certain "gas cities" eligible for an increase to their shares provided that certain requirements are met.

All cities and counties receive shares of three State sales taxes on video programming service and telecommunications service revenues pursuant to a formula provided by statute. The revenue to be distributed includes 7.7 percent of the net proceeds of taxes collected on telecommunications and ancillary services, 23.6 percent of the net proceeds of taxes collected on video programming services (other than direct-to-home satellite service), and 37.1 percent of the net proceeds of taxes collected on direct-to-home satellite services. Before the distribution of such net proceeds is made, certain cities or counties may receive supplemental public, educational or governmental access channel ("PEG Channel") support funds from such net

proceeds, provided that certain requirements are met.

### **State and Local Fiscal Relations**

The State finances from State revenues (primarily individual income taxes, corporate income taxes and sales taxes) several governmental programs that are largely financed from local revenues in other states, thus decreasing reliance on local property taxes for these purposes. The major programs of this nature are as follows:

*Public Schools and Community Colleges* - The State provides approximately 70% of the funds required for current operating costs of the public school and community college systems, while county government finances the greater portion of the capital costs of these systems. North Carolina school administrative units do not have independent tax-levying authority. The local share of the costs of the public school and community college systems are raised primarily by county government from its general revenues including the local sales tax revenue.

*Court System* - The State finances virtually all of the current operating costs of the General Court of Justice. County government is required to provide courthouses, certain jails and related judicial facilities.

*Correctional System* - The State finances all of the cost of correctional facilities used for confinement of convicted felons and long-term (more than 30 days) misdemeanants. Counties and some municipalities furnish jails for short-term misdemeanants and prisoners awaiting trial.

*Highway System* - The State finances the entire cost of public roads and highways outside the corporate limits of cities and towns. Counties may voluntarily participate in improvements to public roads and highways. Within cities and towns, the State finances the cost of major thoroughfares and streets connecting elements of the State highway system. Cities share responsibility with the State for State-maintained roads inside city limits and take full responsibility for the remaining public streets within city limits.

**APPENDIX F**

**FORM OF OPINION OF BOND COUNSEL**

**APPENDIX G**

**INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM**

## BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM

1. THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF DTC, OF PROCEDURES AND RECORD KEEPING ON BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP INTERESTS IN THE 2026 BONDS, PAYMENT OF INTEREST AND OTHER PAYMENTS ON THE 2026 BONDS TO DTC PARTICIPANTS OR TO BENEFICIAL OWNERS, CONFIRMATION AND TRANSFER OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP INTERESTS IN THE 2026 BONDS, AND OR OTHER TRANSACTIONS BY AND BETWEEN DTC, DTC Participants AND BENEFICIAL OWNERS IS BASED ON INFORMATION FURNISHED BY DTC.

The Depository Trust Company  
a subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation

2. The Depository Trust Company (“DTC”) will act as securities depository for the 2026 Bonds. The 2026 Bonds will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC’s partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered bond will be issued for the 2026 Bonds, in the aggregate principal amount of such issue, and will be deposited with DTC. SO LONG AS CEDE & CO. IS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE 2026 BONDS, AS DTC’S PARTNERSHIP NOMINEE, REFERENCE HEREIN TO THE OWNERS OR REGISTERED OWNERS OF THE 2026 BONDS WILL MEAN CEDE & CO. AND WILL NOT MEAN THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF THE 2026 BONDS.

3. DTC, the world’s largest securities depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a “banking organization” within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a “clearing corporation” within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a “clearing agency” registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC’s participants (“*Direct Participants*”) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants’ accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of the 2026 Bonds. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (“DTCC”). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly (“*Indirect Participants*”). DTC has a Standard & Poor’s rating of AA+. The DTC rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com).

4. Purchases of 2026 Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the 2026 Bonds on DTC’s records. The

ownership interest of each actual purchaser of the 2026 Bonds (“*Beneficial Owner*”) is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants’ records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests with respect to the 2026 Bonds are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive bonds representing their ownership interests in 2026 Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the 2026 Bonds is discontinued.

5. To facilitate subsequent transfers, all 2026 Bonds deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC’s partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of 2026 Bonds with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not affect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the 2026 Bonds; DTC’s records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such 2026 Bonds are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

6. Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial Owners of 2026 Bonds may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the 2026 Bonds, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the security documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of 2026 Bonds may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the 2026 Bonds for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to Beneficial Owners. In the alternative, Beneficial Owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

7. Redemption notices will be sent to DTC. If less than all of the 2026 Bonds within a maturity are being redeemed, DTC’s practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant in such maturity to be redeemed.

8. Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to 2026 Bonds unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC’s MMI Procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the County as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.’s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts 2026 Bonds are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

BECAUSE DTC IS TREATED AS THE OWNER OF THE 2026 BONDS FOR SUBSTANTIALLY ALL PURPOSES UNDER THE INDENTURE, BENEFICIAL OWNERS MAY HAVE A RESTRICTED ABILITY TO INFLUENCE IN A TIMELY FASHION REMEDIAL ACTION OR THE GIVING OR WITHHOLDING OF

REQUESTED CONSENTS OR OTHER DIRECTIONS. IN ADDITION, BECAUSE THE IDENTITY OF BENEFICIAL OWNERS IS UNKNOWN TO THE COUNTY OR TO DTC, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO TRANSMIT INFORMATION OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO BENEFICIAL OWNERS IN AN EFFECTIVE AND TIMELY MANNER. BENEFICIAL OWNERS SHOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THEIR BROKER OR DEALER REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE 2026 BONDS THAT MAY BE TRANSMITTED BY OR THROUGH DTC.

9. Redemption proceeds, distributions, and dividend payments on the 2026 Bonds will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the County, on the payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC, or the County, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of redemption proceeds, distributions, and dividend payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the County, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants. THE COUNTY CANNOT AND DOES NOT GIVE ASSURANCE THAT DIRECT AND INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL PROMPTLY TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO BENEFICIAL OWNERS.

10. DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the 2026 Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the County. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, 2026 Bond certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

11. The County may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, 2026 Bond certificates will be printed and delivered to DTC.

12. The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources the County believes to be reliable, but the County takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

THE COUNTY HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY OR OBLIGATION TO DTC, THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, THE INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS WITH RESPECT TO (1) THE ACCURACY OF ANY RECORDS MAINTAINED BY DTC OR ANY PARTICIPANT, OR THE MAINTENANCE OF ANY RECORDS; (2) THE PAYMENT BY DTC OR ANY PARTICIPANT OF ANY AMOUNT DUE TO ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER IN RESPECT OF THE 2026 BONDS, OR THE SENDING OF ANY TRANSACTION STATEMENTS; (3) THE DELIVERY OR TIMELINESS OF DELIVERY BY DTC OR ANY PARTICIPANT OF ANY NOTICE TO ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER WHICH IS REQUIRED OR PERMITTED UNDER THE BOND RESOLUTION TO BE GIVEN TO OWNERS; (4) THE SELECTION OF THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS UPON ANY PARTIAL PREPAYMENT OF THE 2026 BONDS; OR (5) ANY CONSENT GIVEN OR OTHER ACTION TAKEN BY DTC OR ITS NOMINEE AS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE 2026 BONDS, INCLUDING ANY ACTION TAKEN PURSUANT TO AN OMNIBUS PROXY.