



**RESOLUTION TITLE: GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE FEDERAL COURT
RULING ABOLISHING THE 2012 MARRIAGE AMENDMENT
TO THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS, in May 2012, the voters of North Carolina voted victoriously to amend the North Carolina Constitution protecting our state's definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman; and,

WHEREAS, in October 2014, two U.S. District Court Judges from North Carolina, Max O. Cogburn, Jr., and William Osteen, ruled against North Carolina's 2012 Marriage Protection amendment, declaring that it was unconstitutional, following a U.S. Supreme Court's decision to refuse to hear appeals or review lower court rulings on the matter; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the rulings, North Carolina House Speaker Thom Tillis and Senate Leader Phil Berger announced their intentions to "vigorously defend the values of our state and the will of more than 60 percent of North Carolina voters who made it clear that marriage is between one man and one woman"; and,

WHEREAS, in April of 2012, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners affirmed its belief that the institution of marriage is the solid foundation upon which our society is built, and unanimously adopted resolution 2012-115 in support of the constitutional amendment. This Board steadfastly upholds the sanctity of marriage and shall continue to oppose efforts by any court or legislature to legalize same-sex marriage; and,

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I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE FEDERAL COURT RULING ABOLISHING THE 2012 MARRIAGE AMENDMENT TO THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION

Page 2

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners recognizes its constitutional duty to uphold the law, however, the Board remains resolved in their efforts to defend the tradition of marriage and will strongly support and advocate on behalf of the appeals being brought forward by North Carolina House Speaker Thom Tillis and Senate Leader Phil Berger.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes the federal court ruling that abolishes North Carolina's Marriage Amendment (Amendment One) and hereby encourages all those that recognize the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman as the only valid domestic legal union recognized in this state, to voice their opposition to this ruling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, while charged with a duty to uphold the law, does herewith offer its ardent support of the appeal to protect the 2012 constitutional amendment and requests that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the local legislative delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly, the local congressional delegation in Washington, DC, Governor Pat McCrory, and to the other 99 counties in the State, requesting they join in their support of the appeal that will allow the voice of more than 60 percent of North Carolina's voters, who cast their vote in support of the 2012 amendment, to be heard.