

General Fund Balance Policy

Process Overview

The County will maintain a fund balance in the General Fund in accordance with generally accepted governmental accounting principals and North Carolina law.

The County will maintain an unassigned General Fund balance adequate to meet the unexpected fiscal needs of County operations and to permit orderly adjustment to changes resulting from fluctuations of revenue sources.

Statutory References and Authoritative Guidance

N.C. General Statute 159-26	Accounting System
N.C. General Statute 159-34	Annual Independent Audit
OMB Circular A-133	Internal Control Requirements
GASB	Fund Balance Reporting & Government Fund Type Definitions
N.C. Local Government Commission	Fund Balance Guidelines

Significant Policies

Through good fiscal management, the General Fund unassigned fund balance will be maintained at a level sufficient to provide for the resources to meet operating cost needs, to allow for unforeseen needs of an emergency nature and to permit orderly adjustment to changes resulting from termination or significant reductions in revenue sources.

The minimum of total General Fund balance to General Fund actual revenues will be 28%.

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 54 general fund balance will be classified as follows:

- *Nonspendable*: Inherently nonspendable; cannot be spent because of form or need to remain intact (legal or financial reasons)
- *Restricted*: External enforcement of use (creditors, grantors, contributors, state or federal laws or regulations, limitations by governing body legislation)
- *Committed*: Self-imposed Internal limitations on use (as deemed by the BOCC, requires legislation to remove or change use)
- *Assigned*: : Internal limitations based on intended use (determined by legislation, BOCC, County Manager)
- *Unassigned*: Equals total fund balance minus nonspendable, restricted, committed, and assigned.

Based on the recommendation of the N.C. Local Government Commission, Mecklenburg County will maintain 8% of the subsequent year's budget in unassigned fund balance.

Fund balance in excess of 28% of actual General Fund revenues can be appropriated to the capital, technology and fleet reserves with a cap equivalent to 2.25 cents on the property tax rate.

Of the total amount appropriated, 90% will be allocated to specific projects. The balance will remain unallocated and placed in reserve to be used in those fiscal years when fund balance is unavailable for appropriation.

In the event that at the end of the fiscal year, total General Fund balance falls below the minimum 28% of total General Fund revenues, a replenishment period will commence.

To return the General Fund balance to the minimum 28% of total General Fund revenues, replenishment of General Fund balance will be budgeted over the next two fiscal years beginning with the subsequent year's adopted budget.

The replenishment period can be extended to three years if deemed appropriate by Board of County Commissioners.

General Fund balance will not be appropriated to support the on-going operations of the County except in extreme emergency situations.

General Fund balance will be used for items considered non-recurring in nature and the unavailability of fund balance would not create a structural imbalance in the County budget.

Procedures

Projections of the General Fund expected year-end fund balance will be performed on an on-going basis to ensure sufficient fund balance will be available at year end so that the unassigned fund balance will be maintained at 8% in accordance with the recommendation of the Local Government Commission.

The fund balances in the General Fund and Debt Service Fund will be combined when calculating the minimum fund balance. Actual fund balance reported in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report will be used to determine the amount available for appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year.

Adopted the 5th day of June 2012
Amended the 21st day of June 2016