



# LRCOG

*Dedicated to Regional Excellence*

March 22, 2024

Commissioner William Harris  
President  
North Carolina League of Municipalities  
434 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1900  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Re: Laurinburg City Councilman Mary Jo Adams' Application for the North Carolina League of Municipalities Board of Directors

Dear Commissioner Harris:

I am writing in regards to Laurinburg City Councilman Mary Jo Adams' application for the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) Board of Directors. Councilman Adams has severed on the Lumber River Council of Governments' Board of Directors since January 2012, and I have known her since December 2015, when my employment began with the Lumber River Council of Governments (LRCOG).

Councilman Adams is a public servant in the truest sense of the word always striving to help improve the lives of the residents of not only the City of Laurinburg, her county, but throughout our entire Lumber River region. Councilman Adams is an exceptionally dedicated board member to the LRCOG providing sound leadership, guidance, and support to the entire organization. She continually works to help promote the value of the LRCOG and the positive impact that the organization has within our region. During her tenure on the LRCOG Board of Directors, Councilman Adams has been instrumental in serving on numerous committees of the LRCOG Board as well as associated boards, currently serving on the LRCOG Board of Directors, LRCOG's Executive Committee, Lumber River Development Corporation Board, Lumber River COG Housing Corp Board, Vice Chair of the Lumber River Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Transportation Advisory Committee, and as the LRCOG's Alternate Delegate to the NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments' Forum. Through her work with the Forum, Councilman Adams serves as an advocate for not only the LRCOG, but for all of the councils of government across North Carolina.

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## Member Governments

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### BLADEN COUNTY

Bladenboro • Clarkton • Dublin  
East Arcadia • Elizabethtown  
Tar Heel • White Lake

### HOKE COUNTY

Raeford

### RICHMOND COUNTY

Dobbins Heights • Ellerbe • Hamlet  
Hoffman • Norman  
Rockingham

### SCOTLAND COUNTY

Gibson • Laurinburg • Wagram

### ROBESON COUNTY

Fairmont • Lumber Bridge • Lumberton  
Marietta • Maxton • McDonald  
Orrum • Parkton • Pembroke  
Proctorville • Red Springs • Rennert  
Rowland • St. Pauls

Councilman Adams previously served as the LRCOG Board Chair from July 2018 – June 2020, providing exceptional leadership during multiple unprecedented events that affected our region, Hurricane Florence and the COVID-19 pandemic. As LRCOG Board Chair, Councilman Adams, ensured that, the LRCOG was able to continue to provide existing services needed by not only our member governments, but also our entire region, while developing new formats for business operations and implementing numerous new programs and services. Even while dealing with these unprecedented challenges, Councilman Adams exceptional leadership allowed the LRCOG to construct a low-income housing complex and to develop a strategic plan to guide the long-term work of the organization during her tenure as LRCOG Board Chair. This strategic plan not only is guiding the work of the LRCOG today, but also provided the basis for the evaluation of the LRCOG's dues structure, which lead to the implementation of the LRCOG's first dues increase in more than fifteen (15) years.

Councilman Adams always seeks to improve the entire City of Laurinburg by bring new innovative ideas and opportunities to her community to improve the lives of its residents and the financial stability of the City. Councilman Adams dedication to the City of Laurinburg and to her region of North Carolina also continues through her work as Vice Chair of the Southeast Regional Airport Authority (formerly Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission) Board of Directors a key economic driver for not only Laurinburg and Scotland County, but for all of south central North Carolina.

As a retired educator having served more than twenty (20) years as a guidance counselor, dean of students, and principal, Councilman Adams continues to ensure that the educational attainment needs of her community are meet by being an exceptional leader on the Richmond Community College's Board of Trustees and Scotland County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Councilman Adams is also actively involved in her community as a founding member of Scots for Youth and through her church, St. David's Episcopal.

Councilman Adams will make an excellent addition to the Board of the North Carolina League of Municipalities and I whole-heartedly endorse her application. NCLM could not ask for a better board member than Councilman Adams.

Please feel free to contact me at 910-775-9752 or [dr@lrcog.org](mailto:dr@lrcog.org), should you have any further questions about Councilman Adams' qualifications for the position.

Sincerely,



David Richardson, JD/MBA  
Executive Director

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