

## **BROADBAND RESOLUTION**

### **NORTH CAROLINA BROADBAND ACCESS**

**WHEREAS, closing the digital divide is important and provides long-term community benefits that include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access existing and emerging services, expand economic opportunities and bridge the economic divide; and**

**WHEREAS, the covid-19 pandemic has amplified the need for reliable and affordable broadband services in all communities; and**

**WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused schools to shift to distance learning with many students and their parents having difficulty working remotely without adequate broadband service; and**

**WHEREAS, the Covis-19 pandemic has made the digital divide within low-income and rural communities and rural and urban residences more apparent; and**

**WHEREAS, broadband should describe internet services that are high speed, reliable and fulfill the need of our digital residents; and**

**WHEREAS, all residents, businesses and institutions need high-speed broadband services where they live, work, learn and play; and**

**WHEREAS, high-speed broadband enables work-from-home and remote workers, enhances business efficiencies, drives job creation throughout the region, and connects customers and partners worldwide to goods and services; and**

**WHEREAS, high-speed broadband benefits the development of industry, new businesses and economic opportunities; and**

**WHEREAS; high-speed broadband greatly expands the ability of residents to access medical, behavioral, oral health services and the capacity of public health officials to monitor and respond to health threats such as Covid-19 and other diseases; and**

**WHEREAS, high-speed broadband enables greater civic participation, brings communities together, helps improve public safety and makes our transportation systems more resilient and efficient; and**

**WHEREAS, effective emergency services require using high-speed broadband to integrate data in real time from all available sources so decision makers have access to the information necessary for the protection of lives and property.**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2021 Chowan County Republican Convention does hereby endorse this resolution and asks approval by the NCGOP District 3 2021 Convention and the NCGOP 2021 Convention to encourage action by the North Carolina Legislature to develop funding and legislation to implement universal broadband availability in every county, municipality and location within North Carolina.**

**Adopted: March 17, 2021**

**Presented by: Bob Kirby**

**Chowan County Republican Party**

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**Bob Kirby, Chairman**