



State of North Carolina Office of the State Auditor

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Executive Branch Member
Council of State

Member
Local Government Commission
Debt Affordability Advisory Committee
Information Technology Strategy Board

May 3, 2026

Wake County Board of Commissioners
Wake County Justice Center
300 S. Salisbury St.
Raleigh, NC 27601

VIA EMAIL DELIVERY

Dear Wake County Commissioners:

Recently it became public that the Wake County Board of Commissioners is scheduled – pursuant to item 16 on the May 4, 2026, agenda – to take a vote on whether to approve WakeMed’s Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation. Based on public reporting, this would effectively approve what’s being described as a “strategic combination” of WakeMed and Atrium Health.

WakeMed is the largest health system in North Carolina’s largest county. While a private and independent non-profit organization, WakeMed’s operations depend on publicly funded programs. The combination of Medicaid, Medicare, and public dollars from the State Health Plan make up as much as 50% of all revenue that supports WakeMed and allows WakeMed to treat its patients, pay its employees, and serve Wake County and the surrounding area. A takeover of WakeMed by Atrium Health would have a profound impact on Wake County and the State of North Carolina.

As State Auditor of North Carolina, I am committed to promoting accountability and trust in all levels of North Carolina government. Our office seeks to make North Carolina a model for effective, efficient, and transparent governance. The rollout of the proposed hospital takeover raises questions. The lack of transparency does not instill confidence, in fact, it calls for greater scrutiny and explanation. In the interest of the people of Wake County and all of the citizens in North Carolina, the vote to approve WakeMed’s amended articles of incorporation, currently scheduled for May 4, 2026, should be delayed, and I applaud any decision to delay this vote.

This is a consequential decision for the future of healthcare across all of North Carolina. The announcement of the transaction was only made public on Friday afternoon. The people of Wake County and stakeholders who are affected by this move deserve to have more than a weekend to voice their opinions on a hospital takeover of this scale. Whether you support this transaction or not, taxpayers deserve full transparency from their government. It’s time to hit pause, pull back the curtain, and explain exactly what is being voted on, the information you have been provided, and the impact this would have

on families, employees, and local businesses in Wake County. I also thank North Carolina State Treasurer Brad Briner and support explanation of his objections in a public forum.

Wake County taxpayers built the hospital's original physical plant and retained through the Board of County Commissioners ultimate say over any change in organizational structure. At this point in time, it's highly doubtful that the average Wake County citizen is even aware of the pending takeover. The stated benefits published by way of a Friday afternoon press release should be subject to stakeholder input. A delayed vote will provide a much-needed pause so the people of Wake County can be properly informed and have the opportunity to submit their thoughts on the matter.

As this process plays out, the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor is examining areas of potential engagement to the proposed transaction and would welcome any opportunity to provide additional support to the Wake County Board of County Commissioners, WakeMed, and to the non-profit Atrium Health, which similar to WakeMed, originated from the publicly-owned Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Boliek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dave Boliek
State Auditor