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## Free Mobile App to Support Newly Diagnosed Individuals & Care Partners

New app is available to help North Carolina individuals and families affected by dementia with support, guidance and connection

The Alzheimer’s Association – Western Carolina Chapter is encouraging individuals and families affected by dementia in North Carolina to download its new My Alz Journey app. The free app is aimed at helping newly diagnosed, early-stage individuals and their care partners navigate their journey with Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

“An Alzheimer’s or dementia diagnosis can be overwhelming and isolating,” said Katherine Lambert, CEO, Alzheimer’s Association – Western Carolina Chapter. “Our new app helps connect North Carolina families affected by Alzheimer’s and other dementias to needed information and resources following a diagnosis. It provides personalized guidance, education, planning tools, interactive activities and local community resources.”

Currently, there are more than 7 million Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease, including more than 210,000 in North Carolina. A 2024 Alzheimer’s Association survey found 66% of dementia caregivers report difficulty finding resources and support following a dementia diagnosis. People living with dementia, including current and former members of the Alzheimer’s Association National Early Stage Advisory Group (ESAG), were instrumental in the app’s development – identifying the need for it, helping shape and test its content, and eventually naming it.

Ideal for those who already enjoy using apps in their daily lives, My ALZ Journey features a simple, intuitive design that guides users through a personalized experience. The Home screen offers a curated path with step-by-step guidance and resources that evolve over time to reflect the user’s journey. The app’s Library provides easy access to topic-based educational content from alz.org, answering common questions about Alzheimer’s, caregiving and planning for the future. Users can connect directly to the Alzheimer’s Association through the Community section, which highlights nearby support groups, events and programs. The Activity Center offers interactive tools, planning resources and brain-stimulating activities to help users stay engaged and supported.

We’re excited to have this new app to help our local families,” said Lambert. “In addition to connecting them to important disease-related information, we hope it will encourage their participation in the various local programs we offer. We want families affected by Alzheimer’s and other dementia to know they are not alone.”

My ALZ Journey is available now for free in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. For more information, visit [alz.org/MyALZJourney](http://alz.org/MyALZJourney).

For more information about local programs, support groups and resources, visit [alz.org/northcarolina](http://alz.org/northcarolina) or call our 24/7 Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

## You Decide: Will North Carolina Get an MLB Team?

Although I have lived and worked in North Carolina for almost 50 years, I wasn’t born in this wonderful state. I was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. Like many people, I continue to root for the professional sports teams of my youth. In my case, in the early years of my life, there was only one pro team to follow - the Cincinnati Reds. But, with North Carolina frequently mentioned as the home for a major league baseball (MLB) team, I may have to add a second team to follow during baseball season.

Major League Baseball is expected to expand from the current 30 teams to 32 teams by the early 2030s. There are also rumors that a couple of existing teams - the Chicago White Sox and the Tampa Bay Rays - may be considering relocating. When these changes are discussed, two cities in North Carolina - Charlotte and Raleigh - are mentioned as possible homes for an MLB team.

Of course, since professional sports is a business, economics must be considered when locating an MLB team. Three economic issues come up: feasibility, economic impact and financing for an MLB stadium.

Feasibility looks at the issue of whether the region is big enough and growing enough to support an MLB team. Population and population growth are the major measures for evaluating feasibility. Using U.S. Census data for “combined metropolitan areas,” including Charlotte-Concord and Raleigh-Durham, the Charlotte metro area is already larger than five existing MLB metros, and the Raleigh metropolitan area is larger than two existing MLB metros. Among the 10 cities mentioned by ESPN as contenders for an MLB team (San Antonio, Charlotte, Mexico City, Montreal, Nashville, Orlando, Portland, Raleigh, San Jose and Salt Lake City), Charlotte is larger than all but Mexico City, Montreal, and Orlando, whereas Raleigh is larger than Nashville. In the last four years (2020 – 2024), Orlando had the fastest growth rate (12%), but was followed by Raleigh (9%) and Charlotte (8%). My conclusion is Charlotte and Raleigh are feasible options for an MLB team.

Economic impact considers the broad effects of an MLB team on regional income and regional jobs. Professional sports teams are expected to increase regional growth in income and jobs through several methods. If having an MLB team makes the region more interesting and fun to live in, then jobs and incomes can increase from more businesses and workers wanting to live in the region. If the MLB team causes regional residents to spend more of their entertainment money in the region rather than outside the region, then local businesses will benefit.

Last, and perhaps most important, if an MLB team can attract people living outside the region to visit the region for games and spend money on game tickets, food, lodging and other purchases, then this could be the biggest economic benefit from having a team. Indeed, an MLB team in Charlotte would likely pull fans from central and western North Carolina as well as from parts of South Carolina. Similarly, a team in Raleigh would see people driving from central and eastern North Carolina and from parts of Virginia to see a Major League Baseball team in person.

Estimating these economic impacts can be challenging. Predicting fan attendance and the origin of the fans can be difficult. Approximately half the earnings of MLB teams are paid to players. In addition, since not all players live in their team’s home region, a part of the player salaries is not spent in the home region. Also, the analysis must account for the possibility of households reducing spending on alternative local activities when they spend on MLB baseball.

Economic impact studies of existing MLB teams in cities with similar populations to Charlotte and Raleigh show permanent new jobs created in the economy in the 3,000 to 4,000 range, and annual income generated in the \$500 million to \$1.2 billion range. However, as one who has completed numerous economic impact reports for a variety of situations, it is important to scrutinize the details of economic impact studies and assess the assumptions and calculations used to arrive at the conclusions.

The biggest roadblock to an MLB team in North Carolina may be the stadium where the team will play. An MLB team in North Carolina will likely require a stand-alone major league baseball stadium. While multi-purpose stadiums were used in the past - the now demolished Cincinnati Riverfront Stadium hosting the Reds and the Bengals is an example - recent MLB stadiums have been built for baseball use only. The stadiums are also very, very expensive. The stadium in Las Vegas, currently under construction for the new Las Vegas Athletics, is expected to cost \$1.75-\$2 billion. The same price tag has been estimated for an MLB stadium in Orlando. Even the projected cost of expanding the minor league Charlotte Knights’ stadium for MLB use is between \$500 million and \$1 billion.

The obvious question is who will pay for the stadium? The owner or owners of the MLB team is an obvious answer, and this can happen. Between 70% and 80% of the new Las Vegas MLB stadium is being financed by the Athletics’ owner. The group behind the efforts to secure an MLB team for Orlando has announced the stadium would be completely privately financed. In contrast, the Chicago White Sox have asked for \$1 billion in city and State public funds to help finance a new stadium for the team. The Kansas City Royals MLB team is also recommending public financing for most of the cost of a new stadium. Therefore, MLB stadium financing options span from using all private money to using all public money, with options in-between.

My conclusion is that both Charlotte and Raleigh appear to be viable candidates for an MLB team. But what will be the economic impact? Will the economic impact be worth the cost? And who will pay for an exclusive MLB stadium? Should these questions be answered before we begin picking names for an MLB team in either city? You decide.

Mike Walden is a Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

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## TOWN OF ANSONVILLE

### BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Ansonville’s town council will hold a public hearing to approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the town council’s boardroom in Town Hall located at:

**Town Hall, 8778 US Highway 52, Ansonville, NC 28007**



A copy will be available for public inspection. Citizens are encouraged to attend and make oral or written comments.

**Shemetra Melton**

**Clerk to the Town Board / Finance Officer**

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*Or email: [townofpeachland@windstream.net](mailto:townofpeachland@windstream.net) with “Job Application” in subject line*

## Town of Polkton NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The public is hereby advised that per N.C.G.S. 159-12, the Town Clerk has submitted the proposed budget for the Town of Polkton for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to the Town Board of Commissioners.

A public hearing on the proposed budget will be held on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the Polkton Fire Department, located at 61 West Polk Street, Polkton, NC 28135.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at Polkton Town Hall for public inspection during normal business hours until the budget is adopted.

All persons interested and wishing to be heard should contact Jerricka Napier at 704-272-7463 in order that their opinion may be a matter of record.

**Jerricka B. Napier**  
**Clerk to the Board**  
**Finance Officer**

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