



**ALBEMARLE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR HIGH QUALITY GOVERNANCE  
May 3, 2018**

**The Board commits to using the following guidelines to ensure high quality governance:**

1. The County's strategic priorities will guide the work of the Board and staff and will be supported by a thoughtful priority setting process and cycle.
2. We will honor the will of the majority and respect the interests of minority opinions.
3. We ensure that policy decisions and directions to the County Executive are communicated by the entire Board.
  - Where this is unclear, the County Executive will seek clarification from the Board.
  - No single member of the Board can provide direction on policy implementation to the County Executive.
4. Board Members do not want their interactions with and requests to staff members to negatively impact staff productivity.
  - Staff members should use judgment and explain the resources that would be required to respond to Board requests.
  - If a policy issue is going to affect workload or a policy decision, it should come through the County Executive's office.
5. When a Board Member sends a communication to a staff member, it should be copied to the department director and the appropriate member of the County Executive's Office. Urgent matters will be clearly labeled in the subject line.
6. To assure maximum productivity, the Board should focus on policy-making work and the staff should focus on day- to day operational work and provide progress reports.
7. We ensure that we work with a careful and unified voice when we are dealing with other jurisdictions or units of government, including both the Board and the County Executive.
8. We are responsible for our districts, the entire County, and the region; therefore, we should give our best efforts to work for the benefit of all.
9. When a Board Member has a concern regarding staff performance, we go directly to the County Executive in a timely manner so that it can be addressed.