
Confederate monument removals

1 message

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To: brianmcmahan@jacksonnc.org, boycedeit@jacksonnc.org, ronmau@jacksonnc.org, gaylewoody@jacksonnc.org, mickeyluker@jacksonnc.org

As you've no doubt heard, last night the Asheville City Council voted unanimously to remove two confederate monuments (the "Robert E. Lee Dixie Highway, Colonel John Connally Marker" adjacent to the Vance Monument, and a Battle of Chickamauga monument located next to the county courthouse) and to form a study group to determine the future of the Vance monument.

The Buncombe County commission will consider a similar resolution on June 16.

There's currently a petition on [Change.org](https://www.change.org/p/jackson-county-nc-remove-confederate-monuments) asking for the removal of the confederate monuments in Jackson County.

You may also remember this expansive story I did back in August, 2017, in the wake of the Charlottesville protests. It described the situation as it existed at that time, but of course now things are different.

<https://www.smokymountainnews.com/archives/item/20606-a-monumental-issue>

Of course, North Carolina General Statute 100-2.1 says that "objects of remembrance on public property" cannot be removed or relocated without permission from the NC Historical Commission.

We have begun to see other municipalities in other states removing their statues, and in some cases, they have been removed by protestors.

With all that being said, I have the following questions for you, for a story I'm working on for Wednesday, June 17.

I understand that this is still a developing situation, but much like my stories on recreational marijuana and Second Amendment sanctuaries, I believe voters are going to start asking you these uncomfortable questions very soon, so here's your chance to get out ahead of the mob and state your opinion in a measured way.

I would appreciate it if you could email me your responses before this Sunday, June 14.

1. In light of the current state of protest across this country, do you think it's time to remove these monuments in Jackson County? Why or why not?
2. Some across the country have suggested that Confederate monuments remain, but also feature some other sort of monument or explanation putting slavery and discrimination into context. For example, the marker at the county courthouse could see an additional monument placed next to it, or some signage presenting the other side of the story. Would you favor this?
3. What are your feelings on the state commission appointed by the Governor (the NC Historical Commission) being empowered to tell counties and municipalities what to do with their monuments?
4. If you're advocating for removal of Confederate monuments and imagery, would you appeal to the NC Historical Commission for permission, or simply remove the monuments and take whatever comes from that?

Please don't hesitate to call or text me (912-508-5640) if you'd like to discuss this on or off the record, however I must insist that your official response come in email form, so I can be sure that I'm accurately quoting you.

Thanks again for all you do.

C

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