

# North Carolina's Boards of County Commissioners

## Board Sizes and Election Methods as of January 2024



North Carolina's 100 boards of county commissioners are made up of 587 members, elected to terms of 2 or 4 years using a variety of election methods. This table summarizes the election method used by each county.

**Board Size:** 5 members: 60 counties; 6 members: 2 counties; 7 members: 33 counties; 8 members: 1 county; 9 members: 4 counties

**Term Length:** 2 years: 1 county; 4 years: 91 counties; variable based on rank among winners: 8 counties

**Term Structure:** Staggered: 95 counties; concurrent: 5 counties

**Chair Selection:** Elected by the voters: 3 counties; selected by Commissioners: 96 counties; dependent on rank among winners: 1 county

**Representation:** Purely at large: 39 counties; some use of residency districts: 61 counties

**Voting Type:** Standard, 95 counties; limited voting: 5 counties

**Election Cycles:** In Quadrennial A years (2024, 2028, etc.), 97 counties elect 296 commissioners; in Quadrennial B years (2022, 2026, etc.), 98 counties elect 309 commissioners. In addition to these regularly-schedule elections, counties also hold elections in both A and B years for seats that have become vacant with an unexpired term.

County	Members	Term	Structure	Voters Elect Chair	Residency Districts	Limited Voting	Voting Method	Quadrennial A Years (2024, 2028, etc.)		Quadrennial B Years (2022, 2026, etc.)	
								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
Alamance	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Alexander	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Alleghany	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Anson	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	4	Districts 1, 3, 6, and 7; cycle changed by S.L. 2023-147.	3	Districts 2, 4, and 5; cycle changed by S.L. 2023-147.
Ashe	5	2 or 4 years*	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.
Avery	5	2 or 4 years*	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.

County	Members	Term	Structure	Voters Elect Chair	Residency Districts	Limited Voting	Voting Method	Quadrennial A Years (2024, 2028, etc.)		Quadrennial B Years (2022, 2026, etc.)	
								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
Beaufort	7	4 years	Staggered	No	No	Yes	At large using limited voting	4	4 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Bertie	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts 1 and 4	3	Districts 2, 3, and 5
Bladen	9	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	Partial	Combination with partial limited voting. The 3 at-large seats are elected with limited voting; voters receive 1 vote among the 3 seats. Districted seats are elected purely by district without limited voting.	6	3 at-large seats and 1 seat each in Districts 1, 2, and 3	3	1 seat each in Districts 1, 2, and 3
Brunswick	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	3	Districts 3, 4, and 5	2	Districts 1 and 2
Buncombe	7	4 years	Staggered	Yes	Yes	No	Combination of at large (1 seat, chairman) and purely by district (6 seats).	4	At-large chairman and 1 seat each in Districts 1, 2, and 3	3	1 seat each in Districts 1, 2, and 3
Burke	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Cabarrus	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Caldwell	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Camden	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (2 seats) and by district at large (3 seats)	3	1 at-large seat and Courthouse and South Mills districts	2	1 at-large seat and Shiloh District
Carteret	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	3	Districts 3, 4, and 5	4	Districts 1, 2, 3, and 6
Caswell	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (2 seats) and purely by district (5 seats)	4	2 at-large seats and Districts 3 and 4	3	Districts 1, 2, and 5
Catawba	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Chatham	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts 1 and 2	3	Districts 3, 4, and 5

\* See notes under Quadrennial A and B years.

County	Members	Term	Structure	Voters Elect Chair	Residency Districts	Limited Voting	Voting Method	Quadrennial A Years (2024, 2028, etc.)		Quadrennial B Years (2022, 2026, etc.)	
								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
Cherokee	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts II and V	3	Districts I, III, and IV
Chowan	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (1 seat) and purely by district (6 seats)	4	1 at-large seat and Seat 1 in each of Districts 1, 2, and 3	3	Seat 2 in each of Districts 1, 2, and 3
Clay	5	2 or 4 years*	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.
Cleveland	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Columbus	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	4	Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5	3	Districts 1, 6, and 7
Craven	7	4 years	Concurrent	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	0	No election	7	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7
Cumberland	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (2 seats) and purely by district (5 seats)	3	3 seats in District 2	4	2 at-large seats and 2 seats in District 1
Currituck	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (2 seats) and by district at large (5 seats)	4	1 at-large seat and Districts 1, 2, and 4	3	1 at-large seat and Districts 3 and 5
Dare	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	4	1 seat each in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4	3	1 at-large seat and 1 seat each in Districts 1 and 2
Davidson	7	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	4	4 at-large seats
Davie	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Duplin	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	3	Districts 1, 4, and 5	2	Districts 2 and 3
Durham	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	5	5 at-large seats (all seats up)	0	No election
Edgecombe	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	4	Districts 1, 2, 3, and 5	3	Districts 4, 6, and 7
Forsyth	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (1 seat) and by district at large (6 seats)	3	3 seats in District B	4	1 at-large seat, 2 seats in District A, and 1 seat in District B

\* See notes under Quadrennial A and B years.

County	Members	Term	Structure	Voters Elect Chair	Residency Districts	Limited Voting	Voting Method	Quadrennial A Years (2024, 2028, etc.)		Quadrennial B Years (2022, 2026, etc.)	
								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
Franklin	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (2 seats) and purely by district (5 seats)	4	At-large seat #7 and Districts 1, 3, and 5	3	Districts 2 and 4 and at-large seat #6
Gaston	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	4	Cherryville, Crowders Mountain, and South Point townships and 1 seat in Gastonia township	3	Dallas and Riverbend townships plus 1 seat in Gastonia township
Gates	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Hobbsville and Sunbury districts	3	Eure, Gates, and Gatesville districts
Graham	5	2 or 4 years*	Staggered	*	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats; 1st place winner receives a 4-year term and becomes board chair; 2nd place winner receives a 4-year term; 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.	3	3 at-large seats; 1st place winner receives a 4-year term and becomes board chair; 2nd place winner receives a 4-year term; 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.
Granville	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	4	Districts 1, 3, 4, and 5	3	Districts 2, 6, and 7
Greene	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts 1 and 2	3	Districts 3, 4, and 5
Guilford	9	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (1 seat) and purely by district (8 seats)	4	Districts 4, 5, 6, and 8	5	1 at-large seat and Districts 1, 2, 3, and 7
Halifax	6	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (3 seats) and purely by district (3 seats)	3	Districts 1, 2, and 3	3	3 at-large seats
Harnett	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	3	Districts 3, 4, and 5	2	Districts 1 and 2
Haywood	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Henderson	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts 2 and 5	3	Districts 1, 3, and 4
Hertford	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	3	1 seat each in Districts 1, 2, and 3	2	1 seat each in Districts 1 and 2
Hoke	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Hyde	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	3	Fairfield, Lake Landing, and Ocracoke townships	2	Currituck and Swan Quarter townships

\* See notes under Quadrennial A and B years.

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								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
Iredell	5	2 or 4 years*	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.
Jackson	5	4 years	Staggered	Yes	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts 3 and 4	3	At-large chairman and Districts 1 and 2
Johnston	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	4	Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6	3	Districts 3, 5, and 7
Jones	7	4 years	Concurrent	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	0	No election	7	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7
Lee	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (3 seats) and purely by district (4 seats)	3	3 at-large seats	4	Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4
Lenoir	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (2 seats) and purely by district (5 seats)	4	2 at-large seats and Districts 3 and 4	3	Districts 1, 2, and 5
Lincoln	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Macon	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	1 seat each in Districts 2 and 3	3	1 seat in District 1 and 2 seats in District 2
Madison	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Martin	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	Yes	Purely by district using limited voting. Voters in Eastern District may cast 2 votes for the 3 seats; voters in Western District may cast 1 vote for the 2 seats.	3	3 seats in Eastern District	2	2 seats in Western District
McDowell	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Mecklenburg	9	2 years	Concurrent	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (3 seats) and by district at large (6 seats)	9	3 at-large seats and Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 (all seats up)	9	3 at-large seats and Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 (all seats up)
Mitchell	5	2 or 4 years*	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.

\* See notes under Quadrennial A and B years.

County	Members	Term	Structure	Voters Elect Chair	Residency Districts	Limited Voting	Voting Method	<u>Quadrennial A Years (2024, 2028, etc.)</u>		<u>Quadrennial B Years (2022, 2026, etc.)</u>	
								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
Montgomery	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (2 seats) and purely by district (3 seats)	3	Districts 1, 2, and 3	2	2 at-large seats
Moore	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts II and IV	3	Districts I, III, and V
Nash	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	3	Districts 1, 3, and 4	4	Districts 2, 5, 6, and 7
New Hanover	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Northampton	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts 1 and 2	3	Districts 3, 4, and 5
Onslow	7	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	4	4 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Orange	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (2 seats) and hybrid (5 seats). For the 5 districted seats, primary elections are conducted purely by district and general elections are conducted by district at large.	4	1 at-large seat, 2 seats in District 1, and 1 seat in District 2	3	1 at-large seat and 1 seat each in Districts 1 and 2
Pamlico	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (2 seats) and purely by district (5 seats)	3	Districts 1, 2, and 5	4	2 at-large seats and Districts 3 and 4
Pasquotank	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (3 seats) and purely by district (4 seats)	3	1 at-large seat, Northern Inside District, and Southern Outside District	4	2 at-large seats, Northern Outside District, and Southern Inside District
Pender	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts 4 and 5	3	Districts 1, 2, and 3
Perquimans	6	4 years	Staggered	No	No	Yes	At large using limited voting	3	3 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Person	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Pitt	9	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	3	Districts A, B, and C. Note: District A contains Districts 1 & 2, B contains 3 & 6; C contains 4 & 5.	6	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

\* See notes under Quadrennial A and B years.

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								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
Polk	5	4 years as of 2024	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	As of 2024: 3 at-large seats. Cycle changed as of 2024 by S.L. 2023-44.	3	As of 2024: 2 at-large seats. Cycle changed as of 2024 by S.L. 2023-44.
Randolph	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts 1 and 5	3	Districts 2, 3, and 4
Richmond	7	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	4	4 at-large seats
Robeson	8	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	4	Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7	4	Districts 2, 4, 6, and 8
Rockingham	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Rowan	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Rutherford	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts 2 and 3	3	Districts 1, 4, and 5
Sampson	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	2	Districts 2 and 4	3	Districts 1, 3, and 5
Scotland	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (1 seat) and by district at large (6 seats)	4	1 at-large seat and 1 seat each in Laurel Hill, Stewartsville, and Williamson townships	3	1 seat in Spring Hill Township and 2 seats in Stewartsville Township
Stanly	7	4 years except as noted	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (2 seats) and by district at large (5 seats)	2	Cycle changed by S.L. 2023-19:  2024: 1 at-large seat and District 5.  2028 and beyond: 2 at-large seats and District 5.	5	Cycle changed by S.L. 2023-19:  2026: 1 at-large seat to serve a 2-year term; Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4.  2028 and beyond: 1 at-large seat and Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4.
Stokes	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Surry	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	East District and 1 seat in Mount Airy District	3	Central District, South District, and 1 seat in Mount Airy District
Swain	5	4 years	Staggered	Yes	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	Chairman and 2 additional at-large seats
Transylvania	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats

\* See notes under Quadrennial A and B years.

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								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
Tyrrell	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	Yes	At large using limited voting	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Union	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	2	2 at-large seats	3	3 at-large seats
Vance	7	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	4	Districts 1, 2, 5, and 6	3	Districts 3, 4, and 7
Wake	7 (9 as of 2026)	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district. Election method changed as of 2024 by S.L. 2023-30.	3	Districts 4, 5, and 6; as of 2024, 1 additional district.	4	Districts 1, 2, 3, and 7; as of 2024, 1 additional district.
Warren	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	By district at large	2	Districts 1 and 5	3	Districts 2, 3, and 4
Washington	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (1 seat) and purely by district (4 seats)	2	Districts 1 and 4	3	1 at-large seat and Districts 2 and 3
Watauga	5	4 years	Staggered	No	Yes	No	Purely by district. Election method changed as of 2024 by S.L. 2023-147.	3	Districts 3, 4, and 5	2	Districts 1 and 2
Wayne	7	4 years	Concurrent	No	Yes	No	Combination of at large (1 seat) and purely by district (6 seats)	7	1 at-large seat and Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 (all seats up)	0	No election
Wilkes	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
Wilson	7	4 years	Concurrent	No	Yes	No	Purely by district	0	No election	7	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7
Yadkin	5	2 or 4 years*	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.
Yancey	5	2 or 4 years*	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term.

\* See notes under Quadrennial A and B years.