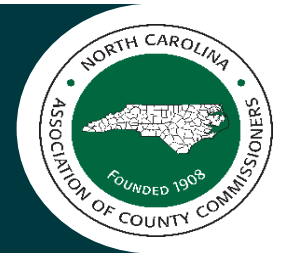


North Carolina's Boards of County Commissioners

Board Sizes and Election Methods as of August 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 (2026, 2030, 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 (2026, 2030, 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.

* 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 (2026, 2030, 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 (2026, 2030, 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 (2026, 2030, 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.

County	Members	Term	Structure	Voters Elect Chair	Residency Districts	Limited Voting	Voting Method	Quadrennial A Years (2024, 2028, etc.)		Quadrennial B Years (2026, 2030, etc.)	
								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. [Beginning with 2028: 2 at-large seats, each with a 4-year term]	3	3 at-large seats; top 2 winners receive 4-year terms and 3rd place winner receives a 2-year term. [Beginning with 2026: 3-at large seats, each with a 4-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)

* 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 (2026, 2030, etc.)	
								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
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.
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

* 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 (2026, 2030, etc.)	
								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
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
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

* 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 (2026, 2030, etc.)	
								Seats	Notes	Seats	Notes
Transylvania	5	4 years	Staggered	No	No	No	At large	3	3 at-large seats	2	2 at-large seats
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 2026, 1 additional district.	4	Districts 1, 2, 3, and 7; as of 2026, 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.