

BREAKING

down the BALLOT

ELECTION RESOURCE GUIDE



FEDERAL POSITIONS

PRESIDENT

The President is the leader of the country, responsible for representing the nation both domestically and internationally. Their duties include making executive decisions, signing bills into law, and serving as the Commander-in-Chief of the military.

Impact on your life: The United States Supreme Court Justices and federal judges appointed by the President of the United States can affect the outcome of court cases with controversial issues or constitutional rights. The President's actions can impact our relationships with other countries and our safety in the United States.

U.S. SENATOR

A U.S. Senator has the power to introduce bills and resolutions, consider legislation proposed by the United States House of Representatives, confirm appointments, approve treaties with a two-thirds vote, and hold impeachment trials.

Impact on your life: Senators impact the laws that are enforced and treaties that are approved. Senators decide which cabinet members, supreme court justices, and federal judges are confirmed or rejected.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House of Representatives members are responsible for passing federal legislation. The bills approved by the house must also be approved by the Senate and signed by the President of the United States before becoming law. The House members have the power to impeach officials, and to elect the President of the United States if there is no majority in the Electoral College.

Impact on your life: House members impact the laws that are enforced and impeach the President of the United States.

STATE POSITIONS

GOVERNOR

The Governor is highest elected office in the state. They appoint state leaders, manage state funding, enforce new state laws and programs, and work to improve their state's overall well-being.

Impact on your life: The Governor has the ability to sign bills into law and veto them. The Governor is responsible for implementing state laws and overseeing the operation of the state executive branch. The governor can issue executive orders, use executive budgets, and enact legislative proposals.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The Lieutenant Governor is the second-highest executive officer in NC and serves as a key advisor to the Governor. They often preside over the state Senate and may have responsibilities related to economic development, education, or other areas depending on the state.

Impact on your life: Lieutenant Governor performs the duties of the Governor in the event of the Governor's death, impeachment, or disability. The Lieutenant governor is the president of the senate and has the final vote if there is a tie.

NC ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General serves as the chief legal officer for North Carolina, responsible for representing the state in legal matters, providing legal advice to state agencies, and enforcing state laws. They may also oversee criminal prosecutions and consumer protection efforts.

Impact on your life: The Attorney General can step in and take legal action on behalf of the State, its agencies, or its citizens in important public matters. However, the office cannot prosecute specific crimes unless asked by the local district attorney. In most cases, they also cannot give legal advice to individuals or private organizations.

NC SECRETARY OF STATE

The Secretary of State is responsible for overseeing elections, maintaining official state records, and often serves as the chief custodian of state seals and symbols. They may also handle matters related to business registration and professional licensing.

Impact on your life: The Secretary of State keeps records of past land mortgages and other important documents. This office ensures that counties follow state record-keeping requirements and new laws.

STATE AUDITOR

The State Auditor is tasked with ensuring government accountability and transparency by conducting audits of state agencies, programs, and finances. They provide independent assessments of government operations to identify areas for improvement and ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively.

Impact on your life: The Office of the Auditor acts as a watchdog for the state government and provides citizens, legislators, and government officials with professional and independent evaluations of North Carolina's financial records and performance reports.

STATE TREASURER

The State Treasurer manages the state's finances, including investments, debt issuance, and pension funds. They play a crucial role in maintaining the financial health and stability of the state government.

Impact on your life: The Treasurer also administers retirement plans and other benefit programs for public workers; and oversees pension investments for teachers, firefighters, and public employees.

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

The Commissioner of Insurance regulates the insurance industry within the state, ensuring that insurance companies comply with state laws and regulations. They may also oversee insurance rates, licensing, and consumer protection efforts.

Impact on your life: The Insurance Commissioner helps citizens to obtain insurance and works to protect them from insurance fraud. If insurance companies are having any difficulties, the commissioner's job is solve the issue and communicate the problem to the citizens.

COMMISSIONER OF LABOR

The Commissioner of Labor is responsible for enforcing state labor laws, promoting safe working conditions, and providing resources and support to workers and employers. They may also oversee initiatives related to workforce development and training.

Impact on your life: The Commissioner of Labor Office ensures fair and safe workplace conditions for workers by enforcing labor laws and conducting safety and health inspections.

NC COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

The Commissioner of Agriculture oversees agricultural policies and programs within the state, promoting the interests of farmers, ranchers, and consumers. They may be responsible for food safety, environmental conservation, and economic development within the agricultural sector.

Impact on your life: The Commissioner of Agriculture influences how the State fair and farms in North Carolina are operated, and ensure that food grown and harvested in the state are safe for citizens to consume.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The Superintendent of Instruction is responsible for overseeing the state's education system, including public schools, curriculum standards, and teacher certification. They work to ensure all students have access to quality education and may advocate for education reforms.

Impact on your life: The superintendent holds a tremendous amount of authority by managing public school funding and enforcing NC State Education laws.

NC SUPREME COURT

The NC State Supreme Court is the highest court in the state and is responsible for interpreting state laws and constitutionality. Justices on the Supreme Court hear appeals from lower courts and play a vital role in shaping legal precedents.

Impact on your life: The NC Supreme Court impacts residents when the court reviews cases in NC communities and when there is a question of the validity of NC law and/or how it has been used. In order to have a court case be reviewed by the NC Supreme Court the case is filtered by the court of appeals as well as the discretion of the court.

NC COURT OF APPEALS

The NC Court of Appeals hears appeals from lower courts and administrative agencies, reviewing decisions for errors in legal interpretation or procedure. Judges on the Court of Appeals play a crucial role in ensuring fair and consistent application of the law.

Impact on your life: This court deals with cases where the law has been questioned and someone involved is unhappy with the decision. It looks for mistakes and misinterpretations of the law. It can consider certain types of requests, like asking for a review of a lower court decision.

NC SENATOR

This position is part of the North Carolina General Assembly. The General Assembly is the legislative body responsible for making state laws and policies.

Impact on your life: The legislature has the power to redraw all districts, Congressional and County; change any county law; and pass the State Budget, which includes the ability to increase or decrease teacher pay, increase or decrease Social Services; like Medicaid, food stamps, etc., and increase or decrease Revenue sources (i.e. Taxes.)

NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

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COUNTY POSITIONS

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

County Commissioners oversee county budgets, set policies and priorities, and may be responsible for specific county departments or services such as public safety, transportation, or health.

Impact on your life: The County Commissioner is responsible setting the property tax rate, holding public hearings, establishing fees and comprehensive use plans, creating policies, goals, and objectives for county growth and enacting necessary ordinances, rules, and regulations for the general welfare.

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

County Superior Court and District Court judges preside over legal proceedings within the county, including civil and criminal cases, family law matters, and probate cases. They ensure that justice is served and uphold the rule of law within their jurisdiction.

Impact on your life: The Clerk handles all administrative and record-keeping tasks for the district and superior courts. The Clerk also oversees the filing, processing, indexing, and storage of all court documents each year, while also providing public access to court records.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

District Court Judge has administrative duties, including assigning the judges to sessions of court, handling matters of custody, child support, equitable distribution, and divorce. In criminal cases, District Court has jurisdiction over misdemeanor cases and most traffic offenses.

Impact on your life: This court controls how civil actions such as child support, child custody, divorce, equitable distribution, and juvenile matters are interpreted county wide.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors are responsible for conserving and managing natural resources within their district, including soil, water, and wildlife habitats. They work to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable land use practices.

Impact on your life: The Soil and Water Conservation Commission works to improve and protect water quality as well as natural resources. This elected office has the power to change how soil and water in the county is regulated. They also have an important obligation to the citizens of their counties to educate people on the status of their soil and water.

COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

The County School Board provides statewide public school governance. School Board members oversee local public schools and education policies within their district. They set educational goals, allocate funding, and make decisions to improve the quality of education for students in their community.

Impact on your life: The Board of Education provides statewide public school governance by setting policy for the school system.



Apathy whispers, "Maybe later," but change demands "NOW!"

From school boards to the White House, every election needs your voice. By exercising OUR right to vote, we can bring politics closer to home and shape policies that reflect OUR community's needs and aspirations. Register, research, and raise your voice because inaction is NOT an option.

2024 KEY ELECTION DATES

OCT. 17

One-stop, in-person voting period begins.
Ends Nov. 2 @ 3.p.m.

OCT. 29

5 p.m. deadline for absentee ballot request form to be received by County BOE.

NOV. 5

Election Day (6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.) and civilian absentee ballot return deadline.