

Chatham County Programs and Services

A large majority of the programs and services listed below are not optional. They are usually mandated by the state and/or federal government:

- Law enforcement and court security (Sheriff's Office)*;
- Register of deeds office* (marriage licenses, death certificates, property deeds and estate records)
- Health services, such as immunization of children, epidemic preparations, disease prevention and environmental health (well and septic permits, restaurant and public swimming pool inspections)
- Social services, such as providing temporary assistance to low-income families in emergency situations, child abuse prevention and special services for qualified disabled and senior citizens
- Waste disposal and recycling
- Public water and sewer (although the latter is very limited in our county)
- Emergency management (preparations for disasters and E911 call center)
- Emergency medical services (in our county, these are contracted services)
- Board of Elections operations**
- Public libraries
- Parks and recreation
- Land use planning and zoning
- Central permits and inspections
- Fire marshal (part of the Central Permitting Department)
- Animal control (part of the Health Department)
- Tax office (includes listing, assessment, collection, mapping and appraisal)
- Soil and water district conservation***
- Tourism promotion

*The head of these agencies are elected by county voters every four years.

**The head of this office is appointed by the State Board of Elections and the three-member Board of Elections is selected by local political parties.

***The district's governing program is elected by county voters for four-year terms

County-Supported Programs and Services

Here are a few programs that are typically supported by the counties but sometimes offered through or with partner agencies:

- Schools (the county helps fund school facilities for K-12 and the community college and also helps fund some school operations, but does not have any other responsibility in operating schools)
- Economic development
- Cooperative Extension (collaborative program with N.C. State University and the federal government)
- Senior services, such as senior centers and day care programs
- Mental health services
- Court services (counties fund court facilities, the state operates the court offices and staff)

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