

NC Counties  
Change in Election Methods  
Between 2008 and 2014

County	Population, OSBM July 2017	No. of Comms.	Election Method	Combined Description	Terms of Office	Footnotes	2008	Combined Description (If Different)
Alamance	161,076	5	al		4S		al	
Alexander	38,452	5	al		4S		al	
Alleghany	11,233	5	al		4S		al	
Anson	25,626	7	d		4S		d	
Ashe	27,218	5	al		2/4S		al	
Avery	18,072	5	al		2/4S		al	
Beaufort	47,547	7	l		4S	1	l	
Bertie	19,881	5	dal		4S		dal	
Bladen	34,393	9	m	6d; 3al; l	4S	2	m	
Brunswick	131,726	5	dal		4S		dal	
Buncombe	261,532	7	cda	6d; 1al	4	3	al	
Burke	90,246	5	al		4S		al	
Cabarrus	205,473	5	al		4S		al	
Caldwell	83,303	5	al		4S		al	
Camden	10,359	5	dal	3d; 2al	4S		dal	
Carteret	70,190	7	dal		4S		dal	
Caswell	23,699	7	cda	5d, 2al	4S		cda	
Catawba	156,949	5	al		4S		al	
Chatham	74,835	5	dal		4S		dal	
Cherokee	29,216	5	cda		4		dal	
Chowan	14,292	7	cda	6d; 1al	4S	4	cda	
Ciay	11,488	5	ai		4		ai	
Cleveland	98,580	5	al		4S		al	
Columbus	56,941	7	d		4S		d	
Craven	103,735	7	d		4	5	d	
Cumberland	329,604	7	cda	5d; 2al	4S		cda	
Currituck	26,604	7	cdal	2al; 5dal	4S		cdal	
Dare	36,792	7	cda	6d; 1al	4S		cda	
Davidson	167,105	7	al		4S		al	
Davie	42,727	5	al		4S		al	
Duplin	59,513	5	d		4S		d	
Durham	306,184	5	al		4		al	
Edgecombe	52,856	7	d		4S		d	
Forsyth	372,651	7	cda	1al; 6d	4S	6	cda	
Franklin	66,514	7	cda	2al; 5d	4S		cda	
Gaston	218,527	7	dal		4S		dal	
Gates	11,960	5	dal		4S		dal	
Graham	8,837	5	al		4	7	al	
Granville	59,975	7	d		4S		d	
Greene	21,522	5	al		4S		al	
Guilford	523,962	9	cda	8d; 1al	4S		cda	
Halifax	51,815	6	cda	3d; 3al	4S		cda	
Harnett	130,847	5	d		4S		d	
Haywood	62,277	5	al		4S		al	
Henderson	116,173	5	dal		4S		dal	
Hertford	23,947	5	dal		4S		dal	
Hoke	53,343	5	al		4S		al	
Hyde	5,644	5	dal		4S		al	
Iredell	176,563	5	al		2/4S		al	
Jackson	43,116	5	cda	4dal; 1 al	4S	3	cda	
Johnston	194,705	7	dal		4S		dal	
Jones	10,356	5	al		4		al	
Lee	59,337	7	cda	3al; 4d	4S		cda	
Lenoir	57,477	7	cda	2al; 5d	4S		cda	
Lincoln	83,251	5	al		4S		al	
Macon	35,413	5	dal		4S		dal	
Madison	22,240	5	al		4S		al	
Martin	23,510	5	l		4S	8	l	
McDowell	45,716	5	al		4S		al	
Mecklenburg	1,077,301	9	cda	3al; 6d	2		cda	
Mitchell	15,237	5	al		2/4S		al	
Montgomery	27,865	5	cda	2al; 3d	4S		cda	

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Moore	97,597	5	dal		4S		dal	
Nash	94,365	7	d		4S		d	
New Hanover	227,261	5	al		4S		al	
Northampton	20,709	5	al		4S		al	
Onslow	195,621	5	al		4		al	
Orange	142,365	7	cdal	2al; 5d	4S		al	
Pamlico	13,268	7	cdal	2al; 5d	4S		cda	2al; 5d
Pasquotank	40,598	7	cdal	3al; 4d	4S		cda	3al; 4d
Pender	60,999	5	dal		4S		dal	
Perquimans	13,546	6	l		4S	1	al	
Person	39,868	5	al		4S		al	
Pitt	176,424	9	d		4S	9	d	
Polk	21,154	5	al		2/4S		al	
Randolph	144,672	5	dal		4S		dal	
Richmond	44,892	7	al		4S		al	
Robeson	132,020	8	d		4S		d	
Rockingham	91,790	5	al		4S		al	
Rowan	141,917	5	al		4S		al	
Rutherford	67,796	5	dal		4S		dal	
Sampson	63,143	5	d		4S		d	
Scotland	35,686	7	dal		4S		dal	
Stanly	62,443	7	ai		4S		ai	
Stokes	46,728	5	al		4S		al	
Surry	72,843	5	dal		4S		dal	
Swain	14,999	5	al		4	3	al	
Transylvania	34,464	5	al		4S		al	
Tyrrell	4,138	5	l/al		4S	10	al	
Union	228,171	5	al		4S		al	
Vance	44,862	7	d		4S		d	
Wake	1,048,771	7	dal		4S		dal	
Warren	20,133	5	dal		4S		d	
Washington	12,349	5	cda	4d; 1al	4S		cda	
Watauga	56,170	5	dal		2/4S		dal	
Wayne	124,945	7	cda	1al; 6d	4		cda	
Wilkes	70,536	5	al		4S		al	
Wilson	82,035	7	d		4		d	
Yadkin	37,687	5	al		2/4S		al	
Yancey	18,199	5	al		2/4S		al	

Counties highlighted in yellow have changed election method in past 10 years

Updated December 12, 2014

Source: NC Association of County Commissioners

**TABLE ABBREVIATIONS** Election method and descriptions:

al = All commissioners nominated and elected at large (pure at large).

d = All commissioners nominated and elected by district (pure district).

dal = Residence in district required, but nominated and elected at-large.

l = Limited voting plan.

cda = Combination of pure district and pure at large seats.

cdal = Combination of pure at large seats with some seats requiring residency in districts, but still nominated/elected at large.

S = If S appears beside length of term, means not all seats are up for election in the same year. TABLE FOOTNOTES

1. Limited voting system. Candidates file as a group for open seats and voters may vote for only 1 candidate. Both primary and general election results are determined by plurality.

2. Six members elected to numbered seats from 3 2-member districts; 3 at-large members elected concurrently. Primary result is determined by plurality, with each voter limited to 1 vote.

3. Chair elected separately.

4. Six members elected to numbered seats from 3 2-member districts for staggered 4-year terms; at-large member elected for 4-year term.

5. Two members nominated and elected by district; 5 nominated by district and elected at large across the 5 remaining districts.

6. One 2-member district; 1 4-member district; 1 at-large member.

7. Member elected with highest number of votes serves as chair.

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8. Limited voting plan. One 2-member district; 1 3-member district. Voters in 2 member district may vote for only 1 candidate. Voters in 3-member district may vote for 2 candidates.

9. Six single-member districts; 3 consolidated districts formed by combining single-member districts.

10. Commissioners are elected at-large with a limited voting plan. Primaries are conducted on a partisan basis, with the top vote-getters in each party moving to the general election.

