



# POSITIONS *on the* BALLOT

## HEAVY HITTERS

### MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESOURCE GUIDE



## EXECUTIVE

### MAYOR OR CITY/TOWN MANAGER

They are responsible for the daily operations of your community. They have the power to make appointments and/or dismiss key positions held in your area, like a Chief of Police. If your town or city has both a Mayor and City/Town Manager, the Mayor will hold executive power over the manager.

#### How do they impact me?

- 1. Environmental Justice:** They make decisions regarding land use and development, transportation, and green space investments. They can fund clean energy projects and develop sustainable infrastructure through adequate training and funding for development. Mayors of urban areas can fund infrastructure around urban heat islands and air quality.
- 2. Healthcare + Public Health:** They make decisions regarding what ignites social determinants of health in your area. Decisions around adequate funding for public health programs, correctional health, and other built or natural environmental influences are made at the mayoral level.
- 3. Democracy:** Mayors are directly accountable for their constituents. They don't have the ability to be removed from the community, which differs from larger elected offices. They serve as frontline guardians of democracy, especially at the local level.
- 4. Economic Justice:** They make decisions regarding housing, workforce, and programs and develop the yearly budget
- 5. Criminal Justice:** Appoint the Chief of Police and other relevant positions. They also have the power to invest in preventative programming, such as community-based violence prevention programs and mental health and drug treatment programs, and create programs that support economic and educational prosperity.
- 6. Education:** Funding for K-12 schools. School resourcing. They also can play a role in shaping the school board, which is vital to the success of any school. They also can lead to the strengthening of public interest and support of public schools.

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE & COUNTY COMMISSIONER

These roles are comparable to the Mayor and City/Town Council, except they make county-level decisions. Counties make decisions around their budget and legislation that may differ from what has been decided on a city/town council level. They develop county-level programming and make decisions pertaining to initiatives that will impact more than one city/town within the county.

#### How do they impact me?

- 1. Environmental Justice:** They make county-level decisions for development, multi-city transportation services, and soil and water conservation. Add language from above.
- 2. Healthcare + Public Health:** They make decisions regarding what ignites social determinants of health in your area. Decisions around adequate funding for public health programs, correctional health, and other built or natural environmental influences are made at the mayoral level.
- 3. Democracy:** They are the reflection of true representative democracy. They are the first line of promotion for public accountability.
- 4. Economic Justice:** They develop the county budget and approve programming that supports county-level housing initiatives and workforce development.
- 5. Criminal Justice:** Police services for the county are governed by the county commission.
- 6. Education:** Funding for K-12 schools. School resourcing. They also can play a role in shaping the school board, which is vital to the success of any school. They also can lead to the strengthening of public interest and support of public schools.

#### IMPORTANCE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS:

**North Carolina municipal elections begin as early as September 12, 2023.** We must make our voices heard in these elections, as these "heavy-hitting" positions will directly impact your everyday lives. **Municipal elections decide who will locally carry out three functions: Executive, Legislative, and Legal.** Understanding these roles will help you to make an informed decision when heading to the ballot box this fall.

# LEGISLATIVE

## CITY/TOWN COUNCIL

They have the ability to cast the final vote and approve the city budget presented by the Mayor and/or City/Town Manager. They have the power to develop laws and initiatives and directly respond to the Mayor's proposals. Identical to the state legislature, they must secure a supermajority on the council to override the Mayor's veto.

### How do they impact me?

The city/town council directly impacts all of our common interests as they develop the local legislation that either bolsters or creates harm in relation to **environmental justice, education, criminal justice, democracy, economic justice, and healthcare.**

# LEGAL

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY/CITY ATTORNEY

They serve as the chief law enforcer for your community. They have the power to investigate, prosecute, and take issues to trial. An example of the power of a District Attorney would be in the recent cases pertaining to the harm or unaliving of unarmed Black Men and Women in various cities across the country, including cities such as Raleigh, NC.

### How do they impact me?

The impact of these roles is particularly important because they make the decisions around police brutality and misconduct. They also hold the power to reform the criminal justice system and highlight solutions to inequities within the sentencing process. City Attorney hold power over misdemeanor cases.

# OTHER GOVERNING BODIES

## SCHOOL BOARD

The school board is where community needs meet the classroom. They decide on program and operating budgets, curriculum, and policies regarding students and their exposure in the classroom. They also hire or dismiss principals and set the guidelines for classroom educators.

### How do they impact me?

This governing body is the deciding body regarding K-12 education in your area. They also stand in between adequate funding for essential programming for the schools in your area.



**NOVEMBER 7**  
**ELECTION DAY**

Oct. 19: One-stop, in-person early voting begins  
Nov. 4: One-stop, in-person early voting ends



Scan for Election Details and Resources or visit: [SafeVoterNC.org](https://www.SafeVoterNC.org)

## Did you know a photo ID is required to vote in NC?

- 1 Voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina, starting with the 2023 municipal elections.
- 2 Voters without ID can get a "No Fee ID Card" from the NCDMV.
- 3 If the voter does not show an acceptable ID, the voter may vote with an ID Exception Form and a provisional ballot.
- 4 Voters who vote by mail will need to include a photocopy of their ID inside the envelope. If they can't include a copy, they can complete an ID Exception Form and return it with the ballot. Photo ID is not required for military or overseas voters who use different voting procedures.

## Acceptable forms of ID are:

- Valid **North Carolina driver's license**
- Valid **NCDMV-issued state ID**
- Valid **U.S. passport or passport card**
- Valid and approved **college or university student ID**
- Military or U.S.-issued veteran ID**
- Tribal enrollment card** issued by a tribe recognized by the state or federal government
- ID card issued by an agency of the U.S. government or the State of North Carolina for a public assistance program**

*Note: A voter 65 or older may use an expired form of acceptable ID if the ID was unexpired on their 65th birthday. NC Voter Photo ID law is subject to change; information current as of August 2, 2023.*