

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina ranks 30th among the states in number of local governments, with 963 as of October 2007.

Systems dependent on county governments (173):
County and city school administrative units(115)
Community colleges and technical colleges(58)

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (100)

There are no areas in North Carolina lacking county government. The county governing body is called the board of county commissioners. Legislation enacted in 2005 allows counties with no incorporated municipalities to exercise most municipal functions, subject to referendum. ¹

School administrative units in North Carolina are not counted in census statistics as independent local governments, but are classified as dependent agencies of the county governments. This classification applies to the 15 "city" administrative units that administer schools in and near various municipalities as well as to the 100 county administrative units that are directly concerned with other schools.

SUBCOUNTY GENERAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS (548)

Municipal Governments (548)

Municipal governments in North Carolina are the cities, towns, and incorporated villages, among which there appear to be no significant differences in legal powers or status that would affect their classification for status purposes.

County administrative units have elected boards of education. Most city administrative units also have elected boards of education. In a few city units, however, the board is appointed by the city council.

Township Governments (0)

North Carolina has no township governments. Each county is divided into geographic areas called townships, but these no longer serve any purposes except, in counties, as a "district" for the election of county commissioners and sub-county referendum elections. Township hospitals and other activities serving a designated township area and supported by a tax levy within the township area are classified as county dependent.

Budgets for all administrative units are submitted to the county board of commissioners with a request for an appropriation to the unit from the county. After the county has made its appropriation, the administrative unit adopts and administers its own budget.

School financing is provided mainly by state appropriations. Countywide taxes are a second source of revenue; county funds for current operating purposes are divided between the city and county administrative units in a particular county on the basis of school population. These resources may be supplemented by an additional tax levy for any administrative unit, upon voter approval.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS (173)

School District Governments (0)

North Carolina has no independent school district governments.

Dependent Public School Systems (173)

North Carolina statutes authorize the following types of dependent public school systems:

North Carolina statutes also provide for the establishment of community colleges and technical colleges, which may serve one or more counties. A board of trustees, consisting of four trustees appointed by the boards of education of all county and city administrative units served, four trustees appointed by the county commissioners of all counties served, four trustees appointed by the governor, and the president of the student body ex officio, governs each institution. These institutions are

financed primarily through state appropriations; taxes levied by each county served are a second source of revenue. In October 2007, 58 community colleges and technical colleges were reported in operation. Each institution is classified as a dependent agency of the county government it serves in census statistics on governments; none are counted as separate governments. Legislation in 2003 provided for the establishment of skills training centers in cooperation with community colleges in counties where economic development and training districts have been created to provide training for employment in pharmaceutical, biotech, life sciences, chemical, telecommunications and electronic industries. Such centers may be funded by an additional ad valorem tax within the district and county appropriations.

Other Educational Activities

Education "districts" are state areas for administration of education activities, and are not counted, for census purposes, as separate governments.

SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS (315)

North Carolina statutes authorize the creation of a variety of special districts or authorities that are counted as governments. These are discussed in detail below.

Airport Authorities and Commissions (special acts)

A number of airport authorities and commissions, established jointly by two or more local governments to operate airports, are counted for census purposes as governments. The boards of airport authorities and commissions are appointed by the participating governments.

Airport authorities and commissions may fix rates and charges in most cases. Revenues may also include appropriated funds from the governing bodies of the supporting city, town, and/or county, derived from any source including, subject to voter approval, ad valorem taxes. In addition, most may issue revenue

bonds. Additional financing provisions are available to airport authorities through the creation of special airport districts, described below.

Similar agencies serving a single county or city are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Centennial Authority

This authority, created by special act in accordance with statutes governing facility authorities, is responsible for the development and operation of an all purpose facility for sports, health, recreation, entertainment, and cultural activities. The authority is coextensive with Wake County. Of the 21 authority members, ten are appointed by the North Carolina General Assembly, four by the Wake County Board of Commissioners, four by the Raleigh City Council, two by the mayors of all cities in the county, plus the chancellor of North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Revenues include the proceeds of a room occupancy and prepared food and beverage tax levied by the county. The authority may issue bonds.

Drainage Districts

A general law provides for the creation of drainage districts by the clerk of the superior court on petition of landowners. These districts provide for drainage and reclamation of agricultural lands. A board of commissioners appointed by the clerk of the superior court after election by landowners governs the district. The district may levy benefit assessments and issue bonds.

North Carolina's Eastern Region Development Commission²

The commission, established by joint resolution of 13 counties, is responsible for promoting economic development within the development region surrounding the Global TransPark complex in Lenoir County. The governing body consists of three members appointed by each county, three to seven members appointed by the Global TransPark

Authority, and four non-voting members. Authority to levy an annual motor vehicle registration tax for five years expired in 1999. Eighty-five percent of the tax revenue was by statute deposited in an interest-bearing trust which provides funds for interest-bearing loans. The development zone includes Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Nash, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

Hospital Authorities--1943 Law

Hospital authorities may be created to provide and operate hospitals in any municipality or county by resolution of the municipal council or the board of county commissioners. A board of commissioners appointed by the mayor or the chairperson of the board of county commissioners, as appropriate, governs each authority. The authorities may issue revenue bonds, fix and collect rates and fees, and accept grants and city and county appropriations. Hospital authorities may extend services to include additional cities and counties.

Housing Authorities

North Carolina statutes authorize four types of housing authorities--city, county, regional, and consolidated housing authorities. An individual county or a municipality of 500 inhabitants or more may establish a housing authority through resolution of its governing body on petition of residents; two or more contiguous counties having an aggregate population of more than 60,000 may establish a regional housing authority; and two or more municipalities having an aggregate population of more than 500 may establish a consolidated housing authority. Housing authority commissioners are appointed by the mayors or the county governing bodies, as appropriate. They may issue bonds, establish and collect charges for use of facilities, and accept grants and contributions. Municipal housing authorities may undertake redevelopment activities. Some housing authorities are named "public housing agencies."

Housing authorities governed by the county

commissioners, ex officio, or the city council, ex officio, are dependent activities of the county or city. Redevelopment commissions may also exercise the powers, duties, and responsibilities of a housing authority.

For the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority, see "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Joint Municipal Assistance Agencies

These agencies are created by resolution of two or more municipalities or joint agencies to provide assistance to municipalities in construction, expansion, and operation of their electric systems. A board of commissioners, consisting of one member appointed by each participating government, governs each agency created by two or more municipalities. If the creating agencies are joint agencies, the governing body is an executive committee. These agencies may establish dues and assessments and receive municipal or joint agency appropriations. Upon dissolution, all funds and other property shall vest in members of the joint municipal agency.

Joint Municipal Electric Power Agencies

Joint municipal electric power agencies may be created by resolution or ordinance of two or more municipalities or joint agencies. Joint ownership of projects with other public or private entities is authorized. The governing board of commissioners consists of one commissioner appointed by each participating municipality. Commissioners may be an officer or employee of the municipality and serve at the pleasure of the appointing body. Agencies may accept grants; and fix and collect rents, rates, fees, and charges. Agencies are authorized to issue revenue bonds, or revenue bonds for the benefit of the agency may be issued by any member municipality. Agencies are authorized to generate, transmit, deliver, exchange, purchase, and sell for resale only electric power. Electric power for resale may be sold within the state or in any contiguous state.

Metropolitan Sewerage Districts

Districts to provide and operate sewer systems may be created to serve any two or more political subdivisions and unincorporated areas or a political subdivision and unincorporated area in one or more counties. Districts are created by resolution of the N.C.

Environmental Management Commission following petition and hearings conducted jointly by the county commissioners and the commission. A district board, appointed by the governing bodies of participating counties and/or political subdivisions and additional members as authorized by statute, governs each district. Districts may issue general obligation and revenue bonds, fix and collect fees and other service charges, and levy ad valorem taxes.

Metropolitan sewerage districts wholly within one city as a result of jurisdictional changes, subject to approval of the district board and referendum, may be merged into that city. Following merger, districts are not counted as separate governments.

Metropolitan Water Districts

Districts to provide water and sewerage systems may be created to serve two or more political subdivisions in a county, or any political subdivision or subdivisions, including any existing water or sewer district, and any unincorporated area or areas located within the same county. Districts are created by resolution of the N.C. Commission for Public Health following petition and hearings conducted jointly by the county commissioners and the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. A district board appointed by the county commission and/or the governing body of each political subdivision with additional members as authorized by statute governs each metropolitan water district. Districts may levy ad valorem taxes, fix and collect fees and charges, accept grants, issue both revenue and, upon voter approval, general obligation bonds.

Mosquito Control Districts

Mosquito control districts may be created on petition of landowners and after hearing and referendum. If a proposed district is located in a single county, the petition is addressed to the board of county commissioners; if located in two or more counties, the petition is addressed to the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The district board of commissioners consists of one member appointed by the secretary of environment and natural resources and one member by the director of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, plus members appointed by each board of county commissioners of the participating counties. The district may levy ad valorem taxes and issue bonds upon voter approval.

Recreation and Security Service Districts in Cherokee County

The board of county commissioners in Cherokee County is authorized to create by resolution one or more districts following public hearing and voter approval. Districts may provide for recreation, open space and common area acquisition and preservation, land-use planning and regulation, general administration, security, street improvements and maintenance, facilities and functions. A board of directors appointed by the board of county commissioners and consisting of permanent residents or property owners governs the district. The district is authorized to levy ad valorem taxes.

Regional Natural Gas Districts

Regional natural gas districts may be created for one or more counties by resolution of the boards of commissioners of the counties and the governing body of any city geographically located within one or more of these counties following public hearing. These districts may be formed only in counties that are totally unserved with natural gas and in which a specific natural gas project has not been approved by the N.C. Utilities Commission for the purpose of promoting the development of natural gas systems to enhance economic

development. A board of trustees comprised as specified in the articles of incorporation governs each district. Districts are authorized to acquire, hold, and dispose of real or personal property; set and collect rates, fees, and charges; accept grants and appropriated funds from other governments; and issue revenue bonds. No districts of this type were reported as of 2007.

Regional Transportation Authorities

Regional transportation authorities are authorized by three sections of the North Carolina statutes:

Under general enabling legislation, two or more counties, cities or towns, or other authorized political subdivisions may cooperate under joint exercise of powers agreements to provide regional transportation systems. As of 2007, six predominantly rural regional systems have been created under this legislation with each serving multiple county areas. The governing body, appointed by the governing bodies of member governments, may consist of up to 11 members. Authorities may accept appropriated state and local funds and grants, may fix and charge fees for services, and may enter into and perform contracts.

Research Triangle Regional Public Transit Authority

The Regional Public Transportation Authority Act of 1989 provided enabling legislation for the boards of commissioners of Durham, Orange, and Wake counties, by resolution of each, to create the Research Triangle Regional Public Transit Authority (known also as the Triangle Transit Authority). Ten of the 13-member board of trustees are appointed by the governing bodies of the three county governments and the city councils of cities within those counties as indicated by population sizes specified by statute; three members of the N.C. Board of Transportation appointed by the secretary of transportation serve as ex officio nonvoting members. The authority may acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property; set rates, fees, and charges; may receive state and local

appropriations; may accept grants; and may levy an annual motor vehicle registration tax of up to five dollars per vehicle registered within the three-county service area. The authority may issue revenue bonds subject to the approval by resolution of a six-member special tax board consisting of two members appointed by each county board of commissioners.

Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation

The Regional Transportation Authority Act of 1997 provided enabling legislation for creation of the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) by resolution of the city councils of the four largest cities (Burlington, Greensboro, High Point, and Winston-Salem) within the metropolitan planning organization that included Alamance, Davidson, Forsyth, Guilford, and Randolph Counties. The authority area expanded to now include Davie, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin counties and may be expanded to include all or part of as many as 12 counties. The authority coordinates regional transportation planning and regional transportation services. A board of trustees comprised of the mayors or designated council member of the four largest cities, two members of the N.C. Board of Transportation serving ex officio and nonvoting, the chairman of each metropolitan planning organization, chairman of the board of commissioners or designated board member of each county, and chairman of the principal airport authority or airport commission of each of the two most populous counties governs the authority. The authority may issue revenue bonds; acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property; may accept appropriated funds and grants; may fix and collect fares, fees, and rentals. The authority may levy a gross receipts tax of up to five percent on retail businesses whose business is the short-term leases of vehicles and motorcycles and may levy an annual tax of up to five dollars per vehicle registered within the territorial jurisdiction of the authority.

Transportation authorities serving only one county or city are not counted as separate

governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Regional Solid Waste Management Authorities

Authorities to provide for solid waste management and resource recovery are created by resolution of two or more local governments. A board of delegates, consisting of one member appointed by each participating government, governs each authority. The authorities may fix fees and charges, receive state and local contributions, and issue revenue bonds.

Regional Sports Authorities

Authorities to provide sports and recreational facilities primarily for but not limited to the conduct of sports events are established by concurrent resolution of two or more local governments. The composition of the authority governing body is specified in the charter creating each authority. The authorities may fix fees and charges and issue revenue bonds.

Regional sports authorities that are governed by a county or city governing body ex officio are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Sanitary Districts

Sanitary districts to provide water and sewerage systems, fire and ambulance services, solid waste collection, and mosquito eradication and to maintain non-state streets are created by the N.C. Commission for Health Services on petition of resident landowners to the county commissioners and after hearing. An elected district board governs each district. The district may issue bonds upon voter approval, levy ad valorem taxes, and fix and collect service charges.

Sanitary districts governed by the city governing body ex officio are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

These districts are created by the N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission on local petition and after hearing and referendum. Each district board of supervisors consists of three elected members from each county and one or two members appointed by the N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The districts may require contributions from landowners benefitted by district activities, and may accept grants.

Some districts have entered agreements with their respective county governments for the county governments to administer some or all district accounts and for former district employees to be transferred to county payrolls where they continue to perform duties relevant to the conservation district. Where such arrangements exist, the conservation district board remains independent of the county government and the district is still regarded as a political subdivision of the state.

Special Airport Districts

Special airport districts may be created by concurrent resolution of two or more local governmental units (counties, cities, towns, and villages) after a public hearing and referendum, for the purpose of aiding in the construction and the financing of aeronautical facilities by counties, cities, towns, villages, and airport authorities. The governing board consists of two representatives appointed by each participating government. The districts may levy ad valorem taxes and, subject to referendum, issue bonds.

The Special Airport District for Burke and Caldwell Counties, created by special act with all powers and authority granted by general law, is classified as a dependent activity of the Foothills Regional Airport Authority. The airport authority board serves as the governing board of the special airport district.

Watershed Improvement Districts

All such districts created prior to March 1, 1963 constitute legal and valid watershed

improvement districts. Enabling legislation for the creation of new districts was repealed in 1993. County governments are authorized to undertake watershed activities after authorization of a countywide tax by the voters.

Repealed statutes provided for watershed improvement districts to be established by the board of supervisors of a soil and water conservation district to provide for soil and water conservation and flood control, after landowner petition, hearing, and referendum. An elected board of trustees governs each district. The districts may accept gifts, levy benefit assessments or ad valorem taxes, and issue bonds upon voter approval.

Water and Sewer Authorities

The governing body of a single county or the governing bodies of any two or more political subdivisions may, by resolution, establish an authority to provide water supply and sewerage. If organized by three or more political subdivisions, nonprofit water corporations and the state government may participate. The authority governing body consists of members appointed by the participating governments. The authorities may charge rates and fees for their facilities, may accept gifts and grants, levy benefit assessments, and issue revenue bonds.

SUBORDINATE AGENCIES AND AREAS

Shown below are various governmental designations in North Carolina that have certain characteristics of governmental units, but that are classified in census statistics as subordinate agencies of the state or local governments, and are not counted as separate governments. Legal provisions for some of the larger of these are discussed below (see "Public School Systems," above, regarding educational agencies of this nature).

Among the subordinate agencies and areas listed below, some represent "special taxing areas" within the territory of an established government. This method of financing additional services in limited areas by property taxation, while also used by some municipal

and township governments in a few states, is more widely utilized by county governments. In the listing below of authorized county-related agencies, a bullet (*) appears for each entity of this kind--i.e., any that may individually serve a portion rather than all of a county and for which a tax may be levied against the assessed value of property in the area served.

e-NC Authority (state) is the successor agency to the North Carolina Rural Internet Access Authority (state). The e-NC Authority, as of 2007, is scheduled for dissolution on December 31, 2011. This authority, within the Department of Commerce for organizational and budgetary purposes only, is governed by a commission consisting of 15 voting members nine of whom are appointed by the Governor and by the general assembly and six of whom are ex officio members including the secretary of commerce, the state chief information officer, the president of the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., the executive director of the North Carolina Justice and Community Development Center, the executive director of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the executive director of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, or their designees. The authority's purpose is to manage, oversee, promote, and monitor efforts to provide rural counties and distressed urban areas with high-speed broadband internet access. Staff for this agency are provided under contract by the private nonprofit organization, North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, Inc.

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (state). The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency was created by an act of the general assembly for the purpose of increasing the supply of housing for persons and families of lower income by promoting the construction and rehabilitation of safe and sanitary housing and also assisting persons and families of lower income in the purchase and rehabilitation of residential housing. The governing board of the agency consists of 13 members, including 8 appointed members of the general assembly, 4 members appointed by the Governor, and 1 additional member appointed by the initial 12 members. The agency may participate in

federally-assisted low income housing lease programs, make or purchase mortgage loans, collect related charges, and issue revenue bonds.

North Carolina Medical Care Commission (state). The North Carolina Medical Care Commission was created by an act of the general assembly to provide for the expansion and improvement of health and hospital facilities through the financing and the construction of such facilities. The commission may also adopt rules and regulations relating to construction and maintenance of health care facilities and to the operation of nursing homes. The commission consists of 17 members nominated in part by the various medical associations and appointed by the Governor. The commission may issue tax exempt bonds, purchase or lease property, and fix and collect fees and charges.

North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (state) Established in 1993 for the purpose of developing a strategic plan for early childhood development and education and services for children and families, the organization is governed by a 25-member board of directors of which 12 are appointed by the Governor, 10 are appointed by the general assembly, and 3 are state officials serving ex officio with voting membership (secretary of health and human services, superintendent of public instruction, and the president of the community colleges system or their appointed designees). The Governor appoints the chair of the board of directors. The partnership was established as a 501(c)(3) organization and receives substantial financial support both from state appropriations and from private sector contributions.

The local partnerships, as provided for in the original governing state statutes, were created by county resolution and are classified as county dependent organizations.. Amendments to the authorizing statutes authorize the North Carolina Partnership to establish a policy on membership of the local boards which also includes provision for representation of all member counties on regional boards. The

state organization establishes policies for operation of the local partnerships and for allocating state funds to the local partnerships in all 100 counties.

North Carolina Railroad Company (state). Effective in 1998, the state of North Carolina became the sole owner, as authorized by the general assembly, of all voting stock in this private corporation, organized as a real estate investment trust (REIT). The Governor appoints, on behalf of the state, all officers or agents who are allowed to represent the stock or other interests which the state may have in the company. Governed by a board of directors appointed by the Governor and the general assembly upon recommendation of the speaker of the house and the president pro tempore of the senate, the company owns and manages 317 miles of continuous railroad line and other properties between Charlotte and the Morehead City Port Terminal. Both freight and passenger service are provided.

North Carolina State Ports Authority (state). This authority was established by act of the general assembly for the purposes of maintaining, developing, and operating harbors and seaports. Its 11-member board consists of six members appointed by the Governor, four members appointed by the general assembly, and the secretary of commerce who serves as a voting ex officio member. The authority may fix and collect fees, accept state appropriations, accept funds from counties and cities where ports are located, and issue revenue bonds.

North Carolina Turnpike Authority (state). This authority was created in 2002 for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining toll roads and bridges. The authority is governed by a nine-member board appointed by the Governor, the general assembly, and the senate. The authority may fix and collect tolls and may issue revenue bonds.

Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement State Dependent Entities (state)

Two private nonprofit corporations which are

legally separate but state government controlled were created as a part of the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement in North Carolina. Both the Golden Leaf Foundation, a part of the Phase I agreement with the states, and the North Carolina Phase II Tobacco Certification Entity, Inc., a part of the Phase II agreement between the tobacco manufacturers and the attorneys general of the 14 tobacco producing states, are described below. Phase I funds are to be paid to the states over a 25-year period; Phase II funds are to be paid over a 12-year period.

Golden Leaf Foundation, Inc created in 1999 as a non-profit corporation pursuant to court order in the consent decree resolving litigation initiated by the North Carolina Department of Justice, is governed by a 15-member board, all of whom are appointed by the Governor, the president pro tempore of the senate, or the speaker of the house. The foundation provides long-term economic assistance, especially in communities that have been tobacco-dependent and economically distressed. The foundation receives 50 percent of North Carolina's share of the Phase I settlement funds.

North Carolina Phase II Tobacco Certification Entity, Inc., created in 1999 by court order in the consent decree, is governed by a 14-member board which includes the Governor who serves as chair, the commissioner of agriculture who serves as vice chair, and the attorney general who serves as secretary, all serving ex officio. The remaining members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor, the president pro tempore of the senate, or the speaker of the house, include two members of the state's congressional delegation, two members of the state legislature, six tobacco growers and quota owners, and a prominent citizen of the state. The Tobacco Buyout Bill enacted in October 2004 ended the trust agreement the Entity was formed to oversee. The Entity made a final payment to quota and tobacco owners in 2005. The Entity is expected to terminate June 30, 2008.

The remaining fifty percent of North Carolina's

share of the Phase I settlement funds is intended to be equally divided between the Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission and the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. Both commissions are administratively located within larger state agencies.

Health and Wellness Trust Fund

Commission, an 18-member commission administratively located within the office of the state treasurer, has six members appointed by the Governor, six appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate, and six appointed by the speaker of the house. The commission may expend funds from the health and wellness trust fund to plan and finance programs and initiatives to improve the health and wellness of the people of North Carolina. Fifty percent of each annual payment during years 2001 to 2025 shall be used to create and build the fund reserve; the remaining fifty percent of the payment and any investment earnings may be expended.

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, an 18-member commission administratively located within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and having at least half of its members who are tobacco farmers, has six members appointed by the Governor, six appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate, and six appointed by the speaker of the house. The commission may expend funds to indemnify persons engaged in tobacco production and in tobacco-related businesses and to finance qualified agricultural programs for tobacco production or more profitable crops that will foster and facilitate a strong agricultural economy. Creating legislation does not provide for endowing funds.

Urban redevelopment commissions (county and municipal).

Each of these commissions, created by municipal ordinance or county resolution, is governed by a board of five to nine members appointed by the mayor and municipal governing body or the board of county commissioners. The commission may collect income from projects, accept grants from the federal and state governments, issue bonds, and receive municipal and county

appropriations. Municipalities and counties may levy taxes and sell bonds to obtain funds for redevelopment purposes. In addition, joint city-county redevelopment commissions and regional (multicounty) commissions are authorized. Such commissions are joint activities of participating governments.

Other examples include:

State ^{4,5,6,7,8}

North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority
North Carolina Capital Facilities Finance Agency
North Carolina Disability Income Plan
North Carolina Global TransPark Authority
North Carolina Indian Housing Authority³
North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority
North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority
North Carolina Rural Internet Access Authority
North Carolina Rural Redevelopment Authority
North Carolina Seafood Industrial Park Authority
North Carolina Solid Waste Management Capital Project Finance Agency
North Carolina State Marketing Authority
North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Comprehensive Major Medical Plan
Regional Economic Development Commissions
Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic Development Commission
Southeastern North Carolina Regional Economic Development Commission
Western North Carolina Regional Economic Development Commission
State Education Assistance Authority

County ^{9,10}

Area mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse authorities
Beautification Districts
Duck Area Beautification District
Carteret County Harbor Authority
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority (WTVI Public Broadcasting)
County airport commissions and authorities (single-county)
District health departments

Local Public Health Authorities
County historic districts and historic preservation commissions
*County research and production service districts
*County service districts (Beach erosion control, flood and hurricane protection works, fire protection, recreation, sewage collection and disposal of all types, solid waste collection and disposal, ambulance and rescue, watershed improvement, cemeteries, law enforcement under circumstances specified by statute, removal of junk automobiles and street maintenance in coastal-area counties, road maintenance in counties with a protected mountain ridge, and noxious aquatic weed control)
*County water and sewer districts
Cumberland County Civic Center Commission
District jail commissions
Economic development and training districts
Economic development commissions (single county or joint)
Hospital authorities (county)--1983 law
Hospital districts--1983 law
*J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital (township)¹²
Industrial facilities and pollution control financing authorities
Joint agencies created under interlocal agreements ¹³
*Kelly Dike District (Bladen County)
Local partnerships for children
Marine Commissions (joint county)
Lake Norman Marine Commission ¹⁴
Lake Wylie Marine Commission ¹⁵
Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission ¹⁶
Multi-County Water Conservation and Infrastructure District (joint county) ¹⁷
Person-Caswell Lake Authority
Pilot Mountain Civic and Recreation Center Authority ¹⁸
Public transportation authorities (single-county)
Parks and recreation commissions (county)
Regional (joint) libraries
Regional planning and economic development commissions
Regional sports authorities with ex officio boards (county)
Rural development authorities
*Rural fire protection districts

Tourism development authorities (county)
Underground utility districts (Dare County)

Municipal

Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority ¹⁹
Economic development commissions (single-city or joint)
Hospital authorities (municipal)--1983 law
Joint agencies created under interlocal agreements
Lake Lure Marine Commission
Municipal airport commissions and authorities (single-city)
Municipal historic districts and historic preservation commissions
Municipal service districts
Parking authorities
Parks and recreation commissions (municipal)
 Harmon Field Recreation Center (Tryon)²⁰
 T.H.Broyhill Park Authority (Lenoir)
Public transportation authorities (single-city)
Regional planning and economic development commissions
Regional sports authorities with ex officio boards (municipal)
Sanitary districts governed by city governing body
Tourism development authorities (municipal)
Urban service districts (consolidated city-county governments)

North Carolina laws also provide for various types of local areas for election purposes and administration of justice.

1. The counties having no incorporated municipalities are Camden, Currituck, and Hyde.
2. The legal name prior to October 1, 2005, was Global TransPark Development Commission. The commission had been d.b.a. North Carolina's Eastern Region prior to the legal name change.
3. The North Carolina Indian Housing Authority, for Census Bureau statistical purposes, is treated as a state dependent activity. The Governor and the Commission of Indian Affairs control appointments to the authority governing body. The authority, otherwise, operates

under statutes governing housing authorities.

4. The North Carolina Ports Railway Commission was abolished in 2002. Assets were transferred principally to the North Carolina State Ports Authority with some assets going to the North Carolina Railroad Authority.
5. The North Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation was repealed in 2001.
- 6 The MCNC, previously classified as a state dependent component unit is now classified as private.
- 7 The North Carolina Bridge Authority was repealed effective August 10, 2006.
- 8 The North Carolina Small Business contractor Authority expired in 2006.
9. Most of the following three types of agencies serve two or more counties: Area mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse authorities; district health departments; and district jail commissions.
- 10 High Rock Lake Marine Commission authorized for Rowan and Davidson counties in 1993 was never created.
- 11 The prior name, Cumberland Memorial Auditorium Commission was changed in 1991.
12. J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital operates under statutory provisions repealed in 1983 which provided for hospitals in townships. The hospital serves Smithville Township in Brunswick County which includes Southport, Oak Island, Caswell Beach, Bald Head Island, and the Players' Club at St. James Plantation.
- 13 In 2003, by special act, Clay County was authorized to create a joint development district with a contiguous county in an adjoining state (Townsend County, GA).
- 14 Lake Norman Marine Commission is a joint venture which serves Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg counties. The area is coterminous with Lake Norman and its

shoreline area. The commission is assigned to Iredell County where most of the lake and shoreline are located.

15. Lake Wylie Marine Commission serves Gaston and Mecklenburg counties in North Carolina and York County in South Carolina. The area served is coterminous with Lake Wylie and its shoreline area. The commission is assigned to Mecklenburg County where the greater lake area and shoreline are located.

16 Mountain Island Marine Commission is a joint venture which serves Gaston, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg counties. The area is coterminous with Mountain Island Lake and its shoreline area. The commission is assigned to Mecklenburg County where the greatest area of lake and shoreline are located.

17 As of 2007, the Multi-County Water Conservation and Infrastructure District has not been organized; however, the statute remains active. Subsequent legislation regarding the Roanoke River Basin has resulted in formation of a bi-state commission and an advisory commission.

18 The Pilot Mountain Civic and Recreation Center Authority was reclassified from municipal dependent to county dependent. The governing body of the authority is no longer appointed by the board of commissioners of the town of Pilot Mountain.

19 The prior name, Auditorium-Coliseum Convention Center Authority, was changed to Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority in 2004

amendments to the charter of the city of Charlotte. The convention and visitors bureau, Visit Charlotte, merged with the Auditorium-Coliseum Convention Center Authority.

20. Harmon Field Recreation Center, dependent on the town of Tryon, previously was classified as county dependent.