

# Serve on a Board or Commission

## Participate in our county government!

Bring Democratic ideals and values to the process by serving on a volunteer board or commission.

There are two major categories of major boards and committees based on their policymaking authority:

**County Advisory Committees:** Some or all of the members of these boards are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners (BOC) and do not have policymaking authority. They advise the BOC and any related county departments or agencies. Examples include Agriculture Advisory Committee, Green Building & Sustainable Energy Advisory Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, and Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

**County Policy Boards:** The County BOC may or may not appoint the members of these boards, but the key distinction is that they can make some major policy decisions without approval of the BOC. The major policy boards for the county are:

- **County Board of Elections:** Members are appointed by the major political parties in the county. The Elections Director is appointed by the State Board of Elections. Makes major policy decisions related to elections, such as types of voting equipment used and voting site locations.
- **Board of Health:** The members of the County Board of Health are appointed by the County BOC, but state law gives this board the authority to determine health policies and to appoint the Health Director.
- **Board of Social Services:** Two members of this County Board of Social Services are appointed by the County BOC and two are appointed by a state board, while the fifth member is appointed by the four other members. State law gives this board the authority to determine social services policies and to appoint the Director of Social Services.
- **Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors:** Three members of this board are elected by the county's voters for four-year terms and two are selected at the state level. The board is granted specific authority around soil and water conservation programs and plans.

### County Advisory Committees

- Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
- Agriculture Advisory Board
- Appearance Commission
- Board of Equalization and Review
- Board of Health
- Board of Social Services
- Climate Change Advisory Committee
- Council on Aging
- Economic Development Board
- Environmental Review Advisory Committee
- Grand Trees of Chatham
- Housing Authority
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Library Advisory Committee
- Adult Care Homes
- Planning Board
- Recreation Advisory Committee
- Tourism Advisory Committee
- Transportation Advisory Committee
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

Details and application forms are on the Chatham County website

<http://www.chathamnc.org/government/appointed-boards-and-committees/application-to-serve-openings>

If you are interested in serving on one of the county's volunteer boards or committees, you must complete and submit an application form. It is important to note that some committees or boards may not have vacancies at this time and some require specific qualifications for positions. You must be 18 years old to serve on a board or commission.