

THE 2018 BALLOT:

State and Local Offices and their impact on you and your community



NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY



- State Senate
- NC House of Representatives

- *2-year terms*
- *No term limits*

- They pass the state budget – deciding how money is raised and spent. Over 70% is spent on public schools and Medicaid.
- Decide who pays how much in taxes and fees to fund the state budget.
- They pass bills that set rules for voting, criminal laws, the environment, public health, schools, transportation and public works like roads.

APPELLATE COURT JUDGE



- North Carolina Supreme Court
- Court of Appeals

- *8-year terms*
- *Work in Raleigh*

- Review trial court decisions when a person says a lower court made a mistake.
- Have judicial oversight over the Governor and the General Assembly.
- Rules on the meaning of state laws and can overturn state laws.
- Their decisions become law.
- The Supreme Court decides appeals in death penalty cases.



Appeals Process

TRIAL COURT JUDGE



- Superior Court
 - *8-year terms*
- District Court
 - *4-year terms*

- *Elected by district*
- *Work in the courthouse near you*

- Decide disputes between people, businesses and the government.
- Decide criminal cases: if you are charged with a crime, you go before them.
- Decide civil matters – disputes over money, personal injury, divorce, child custody, adoptions.
- Decide who goes to jail and for how long.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY



- 4-year term
- One in each of 44 Prosecutorial Districts

- Decides what crimes to prosecute.
- Decides whether a person will be prosecuted and on what charges. This decision is final.
- Decides if people are diverted into special programs to avoid criminal records.

SHERIFF



- 4-year term
- One in each county

- Manages county law enforcement agency.
- In charge of security in the jails and in the courtroom.
- Manages daily conditions of the jail and inmates in custody.
- May choose to work with ICE, the federal immigration force.

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT



- 4-year term
- One in each county

- Manages local court records.
- Acts as probate judge to handle adoptions, estates, and some custody issues.
- Helps pick Magistrates who marry people, set bail & settle small claims and evictions.

SCHOOL BOARD



- Generally 4-year terms
- Some counties hold these elections in odd-numbered years

- In charge of your public school district.
- Decide how the district spends its money, who gets hired or fired, which children go to which schools, how big classes are, what gets taught, and what textbooks are used.

COUNTY COMMISSION



- 2 or 4-year term

- They pass the county budget—deciding the property tax rate and how that money is spent.
- Determines county policies.
- Hires and oversees the county manager.

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