# 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.

## 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.
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<th>Office</th>
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| 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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