

TABLE 2. Bidding Laws and Local Policies: Purchase Contracts

(“G.S.” stands for the North Carolina General Statutes. Refer to the statutes for explanations, details, and exceptions.)

Contract amount:	\$0 →	\$30,000 →	\$90,000 →
Advertisement (G.S. 143-129)	G.S.—no ads required Local policies —may require specific method/timing of ads		G.S.—newspaper or electronic ads for full 7 days before bid opening (advertising by electronic means only requires board approval) Local policies —may require extra time/locations for ads
Minimum number of bids (G.S. 143-132)	G.S.—no minimum Local policies —may require a minimum		
Form of bids (G.S. 143-129, 143-131)	G.S.—no specific form required (e-mail, phone, fax, mail all acceptable) Local policies —may require a specific form		G.S.—bids must be sealed Local policies —must comply with G.S.
Record of bids (G.S. 143-131)	G.S.—not required Local policies —may require a record	G.S.—must keep a record of all bids received Local policies —must comply with G.S.	G.S.—because bids are public, no separate record is required Local policies —must comply with G.S.
Bid opening (G.S. 143-129, 143-129.9, 143-131)	G.S.—public bid opening not required Local policies —may require public bid opening		G.S.—public bid opening required, but may use reverse auction or electronic bidding instead Local policies —must comply with G.S.
Bid bonds (G.S. 143-129)	G.S.—bonds not required Local policies —may require bonds		
Performance/payment bonds (G.S. 44A-26, 143-129)	G.S.—bonds not required Local policies —may require bonds		
Historically underutilized business (HUB) participation goals (G.S. 143-128.2, 143-131)	G.S.—not required Local policies —may require good faith efforts/goals—check with local government attorney		
Board approval (G.S. 143-129, 143-131)	G.S.—not required Local policies —may require board approval		
Standard of award (G.S. 143-129, 143-131)	G.S.—no standard given Local policies —may require a specific standard	G.S.—award to lowest responsive, responsible bidder Local policies —must comply with G.S.	
Public records (G.S. 132-1, 132-6, 143-131)	G.S.—bids become public record when received Local policies —must comply with G.S.	G.S.—record of bids not subject to public inspection until contract award Local policies —may permit public inspection before award	G.S.—bids become public record once opened Local policies —must comply with G.S.