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Judicial Branch Mission

- The mission of the North Carolina Judicial Branch is to protect and preserve the rights and liberties of all the people, as guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and North Carolina, by providing a fair, independent, and accessible forum for the just, timely, and economical resolution of their legal affairs.

Administrative Office of the Courts Mission

- The mission of the Administrative Office of the Courts is to assist and equip the General Court of Justice to fulfill its constitutional mandate timely dispensing equal justice under the law.



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Article IV, Section 15, of the North Carolina Constitution makes legal provision for the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to provide centralized administration and budgeting services for the state's courts.

AOC's centralized operations for courts include:

- Budgeting
- Payroll
- Human Resources
- General Counsel
- General Services (equipment and supplies)
- Technology Services
- Communications
- Research, Policy, and Planning
- Training and Development
- Legislative Affairs



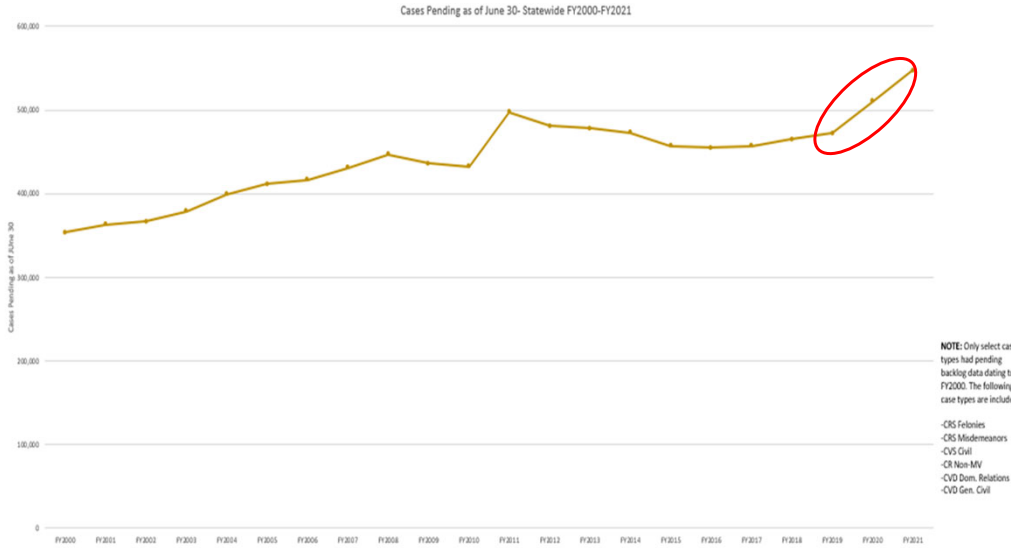
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From 6/30/2019 to 3/31/2021, Statewide:

- Total Pending Felony Cases up **18.4%**
- Total Pending District Court Criminal and Infraction Cases up **18.1%**
- Total Pending Driving While Impaired Cases up **22.5%**
- Total Pending Superior Court Misdemeanors up **15.2%**
- Total Pending Superior Court Civil cases up **22.1%**
- Total Pending District Court Civil Cases up **16.5%**

Pending Case Backlog Rankings Report Prepared by AOC Research, Policy & Planning



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Backlog Reduction and Swifter Justice Toolkit

Search: Backlog Toolkit

Backlog Reduction and Swifter Justice Toolkit

Summary

Chief Justice Paul Newby and NCAOC Director Judge Andrew Heath met with leaders and representatives of all judicial groups on February 10, 2022, to discuss pursuing timely justice and reducing the ongoing backlog of trial court cases. Also present at this meeting were representatives from the National Center for State Courts, who shared fundamental case management best practices.

This page serves as a source of helpful information and practical tools for judicial officials to employ in their localized efforts to accomplish these important goals.

Related Links

- [Pending Case Inventory Tools](#)
- [Data and Statistics Dashboard](#)
- [Request Assistance](#)

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<h3><u>Short Term</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Restore courts to full capacity to get cases moving ● Assemble Courthouse Leadership Teams ● Develop Local Action Plan ● Adopt and enforce continuance policy 	<h3><u>Medium to Long Term</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adopt and enforce case management policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discovery scheduling orders ○ Case management plans ● Adopt and enforce calendaring best practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Move away from “bulk scheduling” ○ Move toward “trial date certainty”
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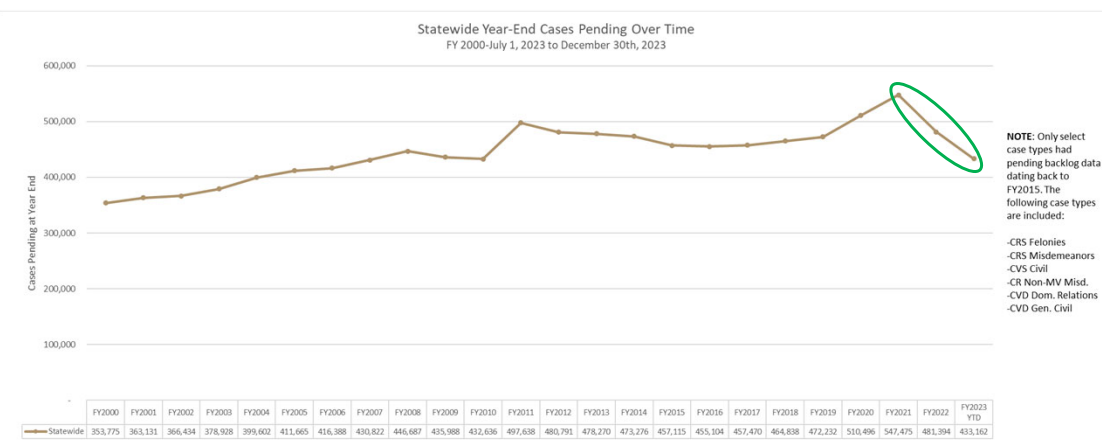
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Statewide Year-End Cases Pending Over Time
 7/31/23

- Pending District Court Criminal + Infractions down 17.3%
- Pending District Court Civil cases down 0.7%
- Pending Felonies down 8.8%
- Pending DWIs down 5.3%
- Pending SC Misdemeanors down 21%
- Pending Superior Court Civil cases up 13.9%



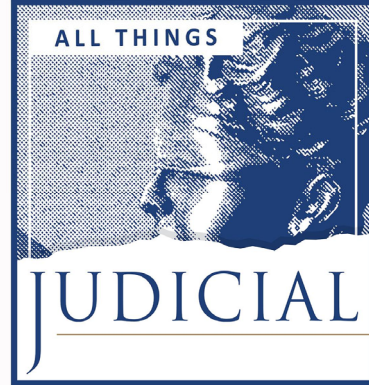
Statewide Year-End Cases Pending Over Time

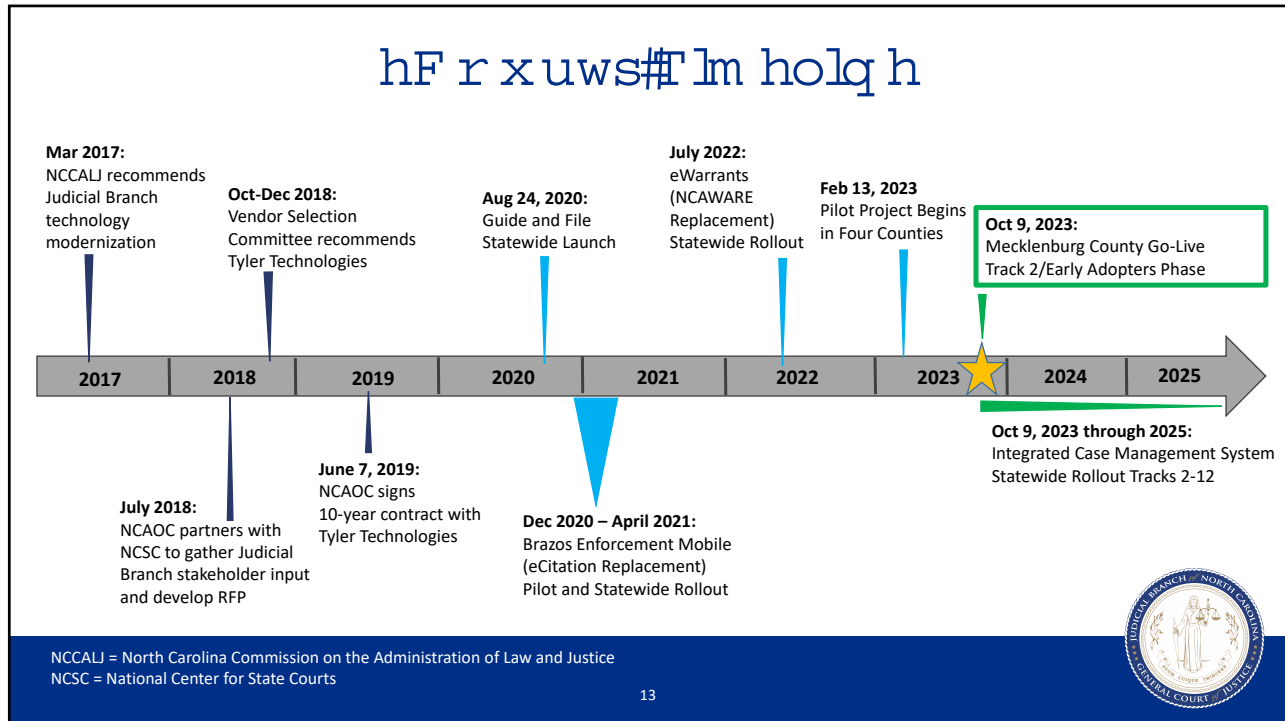


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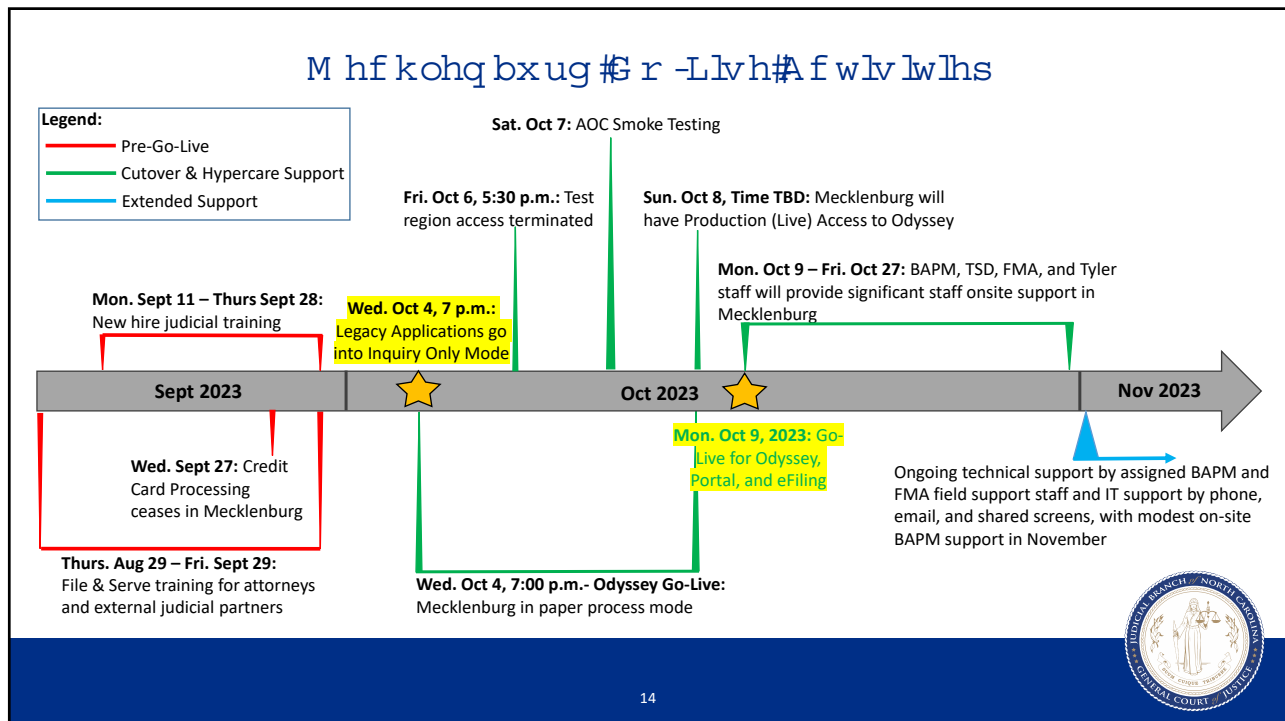
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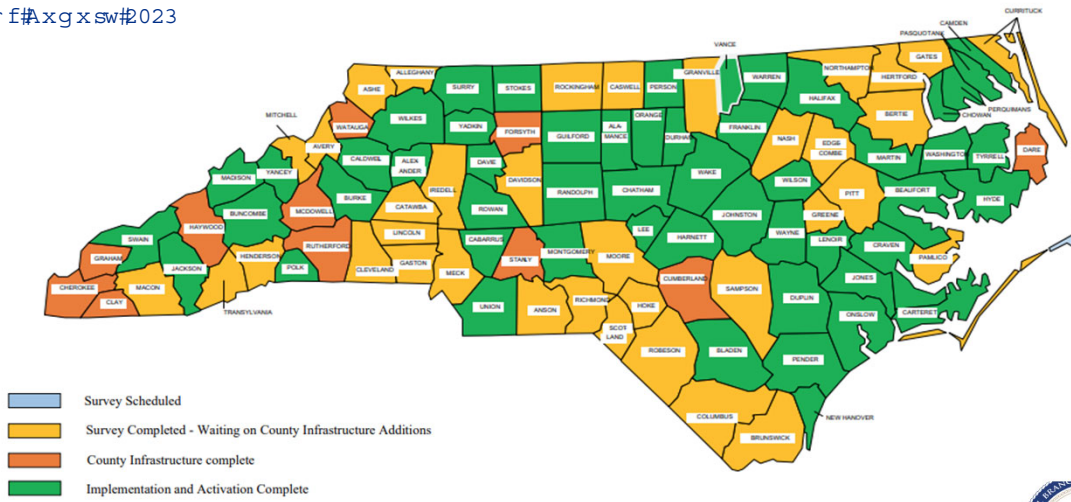
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- Approximately **351,000** accepted electronic filings in four pilot counties.
- Over **64,000** cases disposed using Odyssey.
- Estimated **1.6 million** sheets of paper saved.
- Users average **10,000** daily searches using Portal.
- Over **1 million** criminal processes issued in eWarrants
 - **354,981** cases
 - **161,768** magistrate orders
 - **152,391** warrants for arrest
 - **40,822** criminal summonses
 - **237,627** orders for arrest
 - **439,396** release orders
- Total eCitations issued Jan 2022 to present: **Over 1.7 million**
 - Statewide **93.0%** of citations are electronic vs Paper



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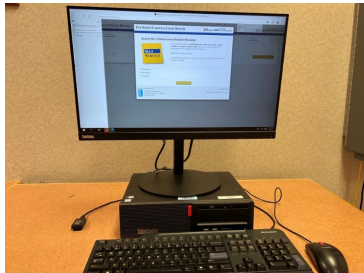
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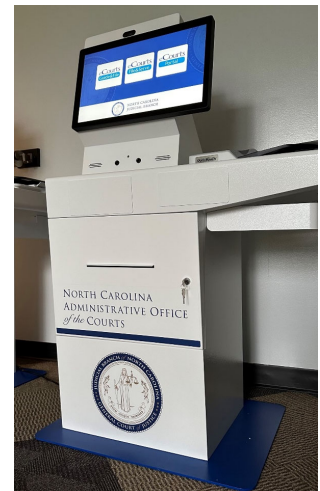
Public Access Terminal (PAT)

- Pay to print with purchased copy button
 - CIPRS
 - View, print and email criminal data
 - VCAP access



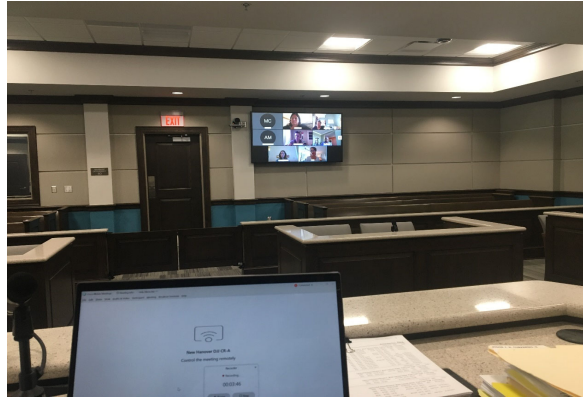
Public Access Kiosk (PAK)

- Odyssey Portal
- Guide and File
- File And Serve
- Additional Services
 - Hearing search
 - Make payments
 - Judgment search
 - Scanning
 - Printing



F r x q w y # P d u w q h u s k l s # s s r u w x q l w y

- **AOC will provide 2 units per county**
- **County Obligation**
 - Low voltage cabling per site survey
 - OR
 - Enter cabling MOA with AOC
 - AOC vendor performs cabling work on behalf of county (option to defer payment)
- **Other Benefits**
 - Leverage existing AOC state contract discounts to purchase additional CRAVE units
 - AOC will provide support for all CRAVE system hardware and technical support
 - AOC Help Desk is 24/7/365 and can provide 1st and 2nd level troubleshooting, as well as escalating issues to advanced support.



eCourts



EXPANDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

September 14, 2023

Modifying Conditions of Release on a Criminal Case

Rules of Recordkeeping amended effective September 8, 2023

Adding Rule 9.24



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2023 Budget Requests

- Seventh magistrate salary step
- Additional salary step for chief magistrates
- Legislative salary increases
- Codify 'Magiclerk' authorization in 7A-133
- Supporting resources for Help Desk/HR/Financial Services

2023 Legislative Requests

- Chief Magistrate authority changes (S.L. 2023-103)
- Repeal magistrate bond requirement (S.L. 2023-103)



Judicial Branch Expenditures

Appropriations Act 2021 – 11 new magistrate positions

- 2.5% salary increase for magistrates

Appropriations Act 2022 – 13 new magistrate positions

- 4.5% salary increase for magistrates
- Statutory change to allow magistrates to reside in adjacent counties

Appropriations Act 2023 – TBD as of presentation submission 9/18/23



Magistrate Positions

Total Authorized FTEs: 695.6

Magistrate Metrics - 5 Year Period	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	5-Year Avg
Judicial Branch Turnover Rates	11.93%	8.58%	10.68%	13.57%	13.71%	11.69%
Magistrate Turnover Rates	7.75%	5.38%	9.50%	8.37%	10.26%	8.25%
Magistrate - No. Retirements	30	27	31	26	25	28
Magistrate No. Separations	52	36	63	56	70	55
Magistrate No. Vacancies - end of FY year	3	4.5	10.5	13.5	14	9.1
Magistrate Vacancies as of 9/1/23	13					



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- "Do Your Career Justice" Campaign
- Salary Increase Requests
- Parking Reimbursement
- State Bar Dues Reimbursement
- Increased Mileage/Travel Rates

DO YOUR CAREER JUSTICE.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE STATEWIDE

- Competitive Salaries
- Generous Insurance Options
- Retirement Package
- Flexible Benefits
- Vacation, Sick, Parental Leave
- Paid Holidays
- Longevity Pay

NCCOURTS.GOV/CAREERS



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