

NCACC

County Attorneys Winter Conference 2021

Amy Bason, Deputy Director and General Counsel
Paige Worsham, Associate General Counsel
Adam Pridemore, Legislative Counsel

1

2020 Election

Record-high voter turnout:

75%+

2020 Absentee Turnout: By Party

Voter Party Affiliation	Absentee Ballots Cast (including absentee by-mail and one-stop early voting)	% of Total Absentee Ballots Cast
Democratic	1,726,701	37.3%
Republican	1,465,473	31.7%
Unaffiliated	1,411,527	30.5%
Libertarian	21,329	0.5%
Constitution	2,183	<0.1%
Green	1,987	<0.1%

Source: absentee_counts_20201103.csv (updated at 5 a.m. on Nov. 14, 2020)

2020 Absentee Turnout: Daily Ballots Cast

Select MAIL for absentee by-mail and ONE-STOP for one-stop early voting.

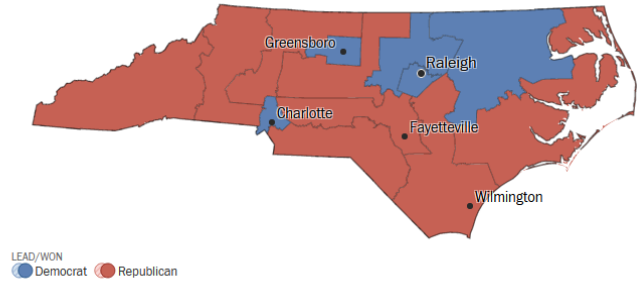
Date	MAIL	ONE-STOP
10/14 & prior	545K	
10/15 (Day 1 One-Stop)	375K	
10/16 (Day 2 One-Stop)	354K	
10/17 (Day 3 One-Stop)	185K	
10/18 (Day 4 One-Stop)	91K	
10/19 (Day 5 One-Stop)	336K	
10/20 (Day 6 One-Stop)	301K	
10/21 (Day 7 One-Stop)	289K	
10/22 (Day 8 One-Stop)	252K	
10/23 (Day 9 One-Stop)	257K	
10/24 (Day 10 One-Stop)	139K	
10/25 (Day 11 One-Stop)	67K	
10/26 (Day 12 One-Stop)	248K	
10/27 (Day 13 One-Stop)	225K	
10/28 (Day 14 One-Stop)	235K	
10/29 (Day 15 One-Stop)	215K	
10/30 (Day 16 One-Stop)	265K	
10/31 (Day 17 One-Stop)	183K	
11/1 (2 Days Before Election)	7K	
11/2 (1 Day Before Election)	21K	
11/3 (Election Day)	23K	
11/4-11/12 (Eligible; arrived after 11/3)	15K	

Data Source: absentee_20201103.csv (updated 11/14/2020 at 6 a.m.)

2

U.S. House Results

Seat	Current leader		
District 1	✓ Butterfield * DEM	District 8	✓ Hudson * GOP
District 2	✓ Ross DEM	District 9	✓ Bishop * GOP
District 3	✓ Murphy * GOP	District 10	✓ McHenry * GOP
District 4	✓ Price * DEM	District 11	✓ Cawthorn GOP
District 5	✓ Foxx * GOP	District 12	✓ Adams * DEM
District 6	✓ Manning DEM	District 13	✓ Budd * GOP
District 7	✓ Rouzer * GOP		



Source: Washington Post

3

Governor & NC Council of State

	Governor	Lt. Governor	Secretary of State	Auditor	Treasurer	Supt. of Public Instruction	Attorney General	Comm. of Agriculture	Comm. of Labor	Comm. of Insurance
2016	Roy Cooper	Dan Forest	Elaine Marshall	Beth Wood	Dale Folwell	Mark Johnson	Josh Stein	Steve Troxler	Cherie Berry	Mike Causey
2020	Roy Cooper	Mark Robinson	Elaine Marshall	Beth Wood	Dale Folwell	Catherine Truitt	Josh Stein	Steve Troxler	Josh Dobson	Mike Causey

4

NC General Assembly

N.C. House		N.C. Senate	
2018-2019	65 R	2018-2019	29 R
	55 D		21 D
2020-2021	69 R	2020-2021	28 R
	51 D		22 D

No veto-proof majority

5

County Commissioners

➤ **Several current or former county commissioners won election this year to the N.C. General Assembly:**

- Bertie County Comm. Ernestine Bazemore (N.C. Senate, District 3)
- Alamance County Comm. Amy Galey (N.C. Senate, District 24)
- Former Craven County Comm. Steve Tyson (N.C. House, District 3)
- Former Wake County Comm. Abe Jones (N.C. House, District 38)
- Former Cumberland County Comm. Diane Wheatley (N.C. House, District 43)
- Harnett County Comm. Howard Penny (N.C. House, District 53)
- Richmond County Comm. Ben Moss (N.C. House, District 66)
- Former Davidson County Comm. Sam Watford (N.C. House, District 80)
- Former Buncombe County Comm. Tim Moffitt (N.C. House, District 117)
- Haywood County Comm. Mark Pless (N.C. House, District 118)
- Macon County Comm. Karl Gillespie (N.C. House, District 120)

➤ **One-fifth of legislators formerly served as county commissioner**

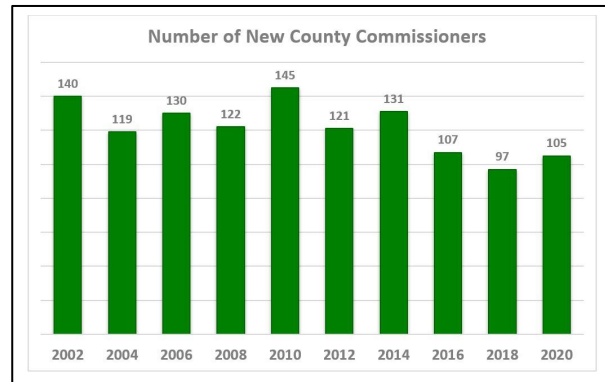
➤ **Two former legislators, Jonathan Jordan and Austin Allran, will now serve as Ashe County and Catawba County commissioners, respectively**

- Voters in 21 counties saw referenda on the general election ballot
- Additional quarter-cent local option sales & use tax referendum appeared on the ballot in 5 counties. The ballot measure did not pass in any of the counties
- Voters in Camden, Carteret, Guilford, Jackson, and Lee counties approved bonds for schools and parks and recreation. Voters also approved public housing, transportation, and improvement bonds in Raleigh and Charlotte.

6

County Commissioners

- 308 seats up for election
- About 1/3 decided before general election
- Women now hold 22% of the seats, up from 17% two years ago
- Durham County elected the first all-female county board
- Slightly more diverse commissioners elected
- Six boards changed majority control
- Republican commissioners hold majority on 61 boards (~49% of state's population); Democratic commissioners hold majority on 37 boards (~51% of state's population); 2 boards split evenly



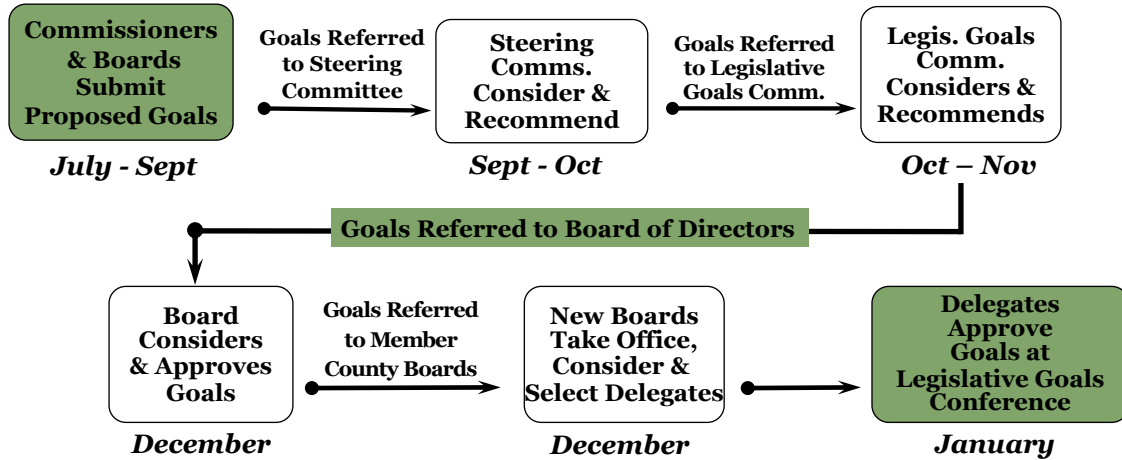
7

2021 Legislative Preview

- **January 13, 2021:**
Reconvened mainly for organizational purposes.
- **January 27, 2021:**
Start of 2021 long session in earnest.
- **What are the issues?**
 - Covid-19
 - Budget – How will the budget play out? Stalemate like 2019?
 - Broadband
 - School Capital
 - Redistricting
 - Voter/Election Issues?
 - HB2?

8

NCACC Legislative Goals Process



9

Top 5 Priority Goals

1. Seek legislation, funding, and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure/broadband capability to the unserved and under-served areas and residents of the state.
2. Seek additional revenue sources, including a statewide bond referendum and expanded lottery proceeds, and changes to the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund, to equitably address statewide public school and community college capital challenges. Revisions to the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund that will allow more equitable access to counties to take advantage of the funds include:
 - Allowing Needs-Based Public School Capital Funds to be used for renovations and improvements in addition to new construction.
 - Reducing or eliminating local match requirements for Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties.
 - Eliminate the five-year prohibition of receiving funds from the Public School Building Capital Fund if a county receives a grant from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund by repealing G.S. 115C-546.2(f).

10

Top 5 Priority Goals

3. Support legislation to allow counties to include specific language on the ballot referendum designating how the proposed quarter-cent local sales tax levy will be spent.
4. Increase state funding and support legislation for behavioral health services and facilities, including dedicated resources for community paramedicine projects; inpatient crisis beds; substance use disorders; specialty courts; individuals with mental health issues in county jails; and single stream funding for area authorities.
5. Oppose efforts to divert to the state, fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties or to erode existing county revenue streams with unfunded mandates.

11

Coronavirus Relief

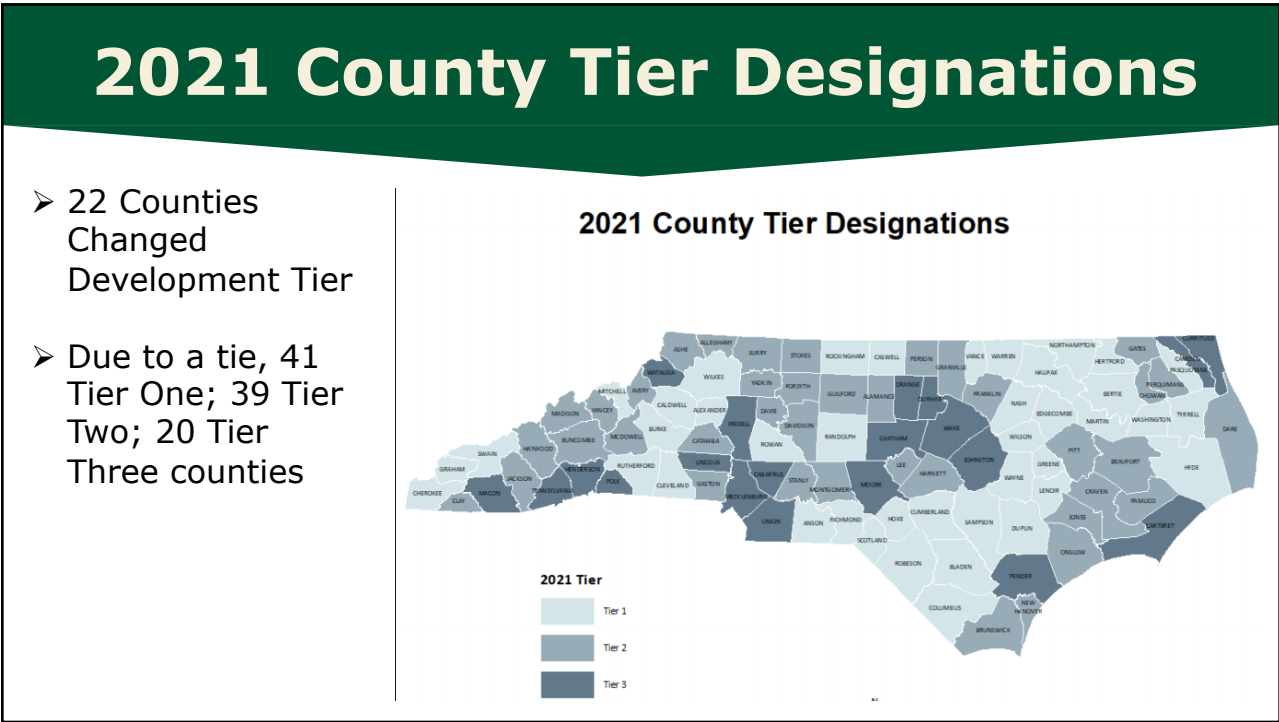
CARES Act (March 2020)

- SL 2020-4: Appropriated \$150 million of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to counties; \$150 million in reserve
- SL 2020-80: Appropriated \$150 million reserve with required \$75 million share to municipalities
- NC Pandemic Recovery Office and State Treasurer reporting and auditing; almost all funds disbursed

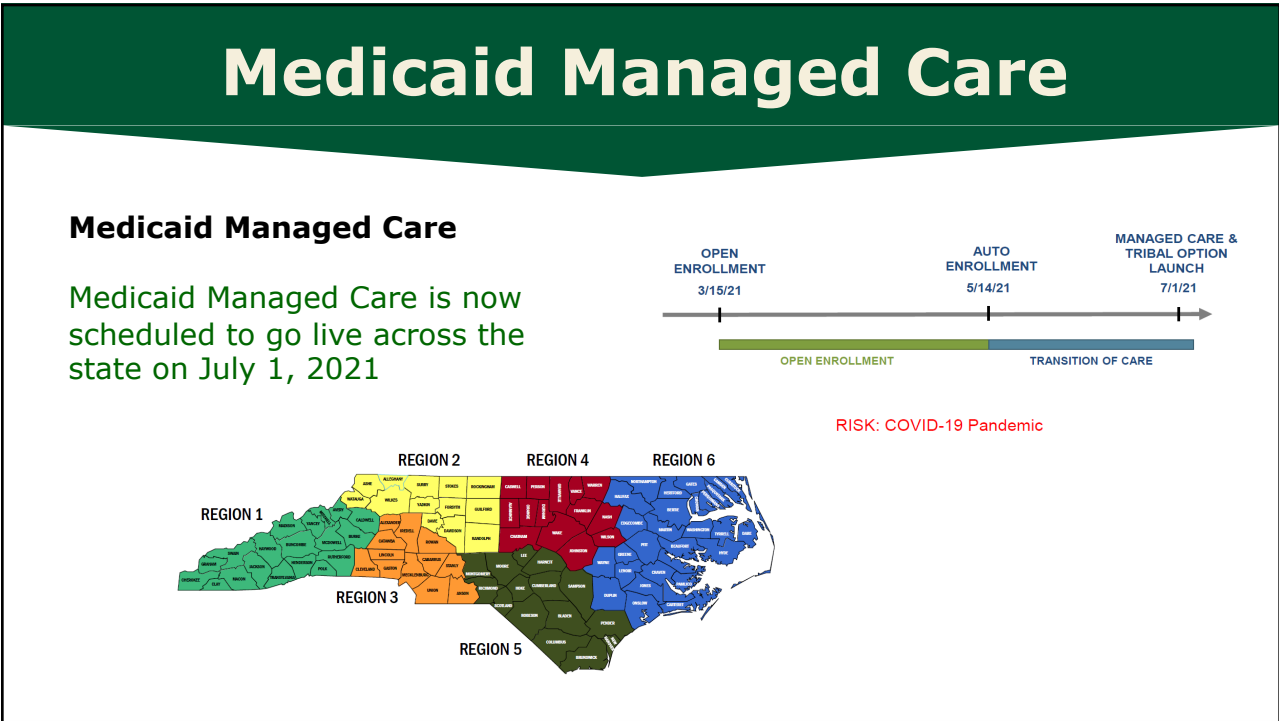
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Dec. 2020)

- \$900 billion federal relief package
- Extends CRF expenditure deadline from Dec. 30, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2021; no new funding
- Includes approx. \$700 million in Emergency Rental Assistance funding for NC; 18 direct allocation local govts
- Local governments and state working on ERA program details

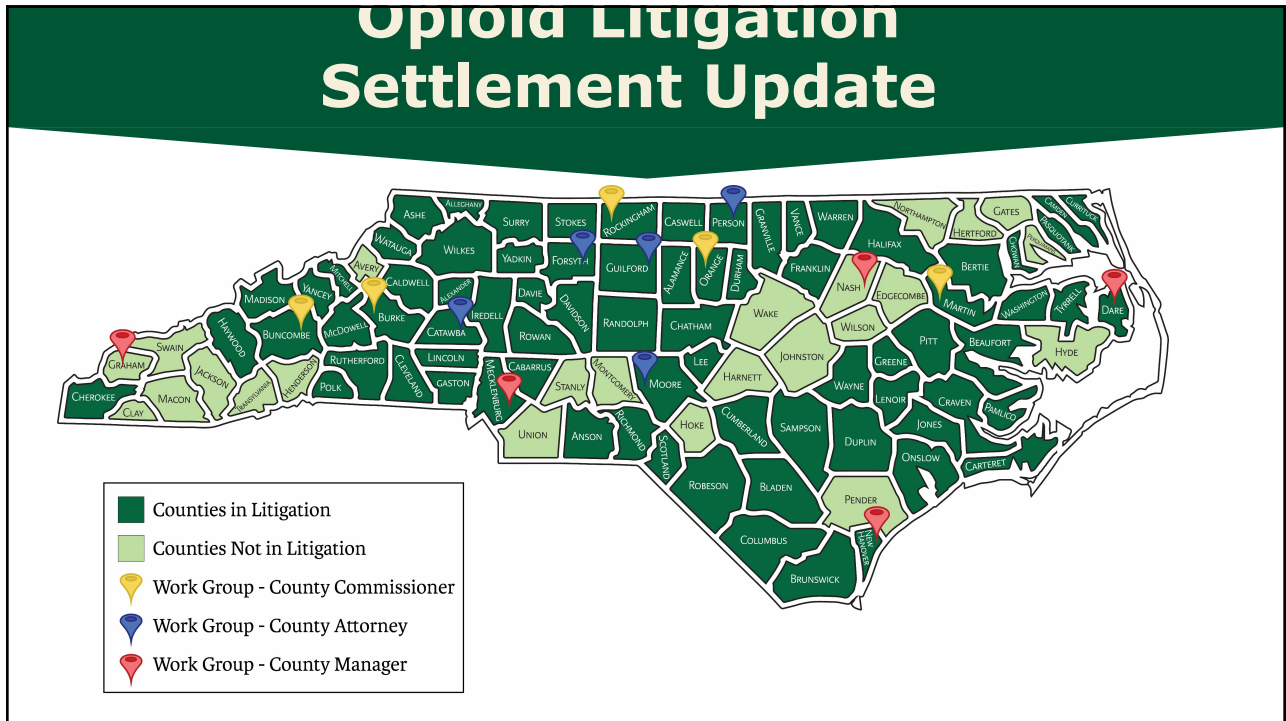
12



13



14



15

Together again...

- NCACC is examining possible options for summer conference
- More info to come

16