DURHAM COUNTY

DCo NC

1881

DURHAM COUNTY

At A Glance

Durham County is consistently ranked as one of the **top places** in the nation to live and do business.

With a growing population, thriving business community, and increasing popularity as a creative and unique destination, DCo (pronounced dee-co) is an up and coming county in the country. Our natural resources, rich history and close proximity to mountains and the coast, make our county a desirable place to call home. DCo provides a range of services to all those who live here.

History

As early as colonial days, the area known as Durham County was important to North Carolina history. The English, Scottish and Irish settled along the waterways of the present Northeast corner of the county on land given to the Earl of Granville by the British Crown. As a result of the settlers' hard work, the area became a prosperous section of the state. The City of Durham, named for Dr. Bartlett Durham, began as a railroad station and settlement. While Durham's official birth date is April 26, 1853 (the date that the U.S. Post Office was established), the town was not incorporated by the General Assembly until April 10, 1869. The tobacco manufacturing industry focused worldwide attention on the area after the Civil War. As a result, Durham County grew and prospered tremendously. In 1881, Durham officials sought to become an autonomous political subdivision and separated from Orange County. Durham County was formed on April 17, 1881 from land transferred from neighboring Wake and Orange counties. In 1911, an additional portion of land was added from Wake County. The first Durham County Board of Commissioners convened its initial meeting May 2, 1881. Durham County operated under the commission form of government with the chairman serving as chief administrator until 1930, when it adopted the county manager form of government. Since that time, there have been nine county managers.

Board of Commissioners

A five-member Board of Commissioners governs Durham County. Members are elected at-large, on a partisan basis by a countywide vote. Commissioners serve four-year terms and elections are held in November of presidential election years. The Board takes office at its first meeting in December following the November election, and elects a chairman and vice chairman. The primary duties of the board include formulating policy, adopting an annual budget, establishing the annual property tax rate, appointing various officials, planning for county needs and enacting local ordinances. The Board has the authority to call bond referendums, authorize the county manager to enter into contracts and establish new programs and departments. Work sessions occur on the first Monday of each month at 9 am, and the Board convenes its regular session at 7 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. All meetings are open to the public and conducted virtually or in the Commissioners' Chambers, located in the Durham County Administration Building I, 200 E. Main Street, Durham. Meetings are broadcast live on local cable channel 8, and can be viewed on the County's website at **dconc.gov**.

Nida Allam
Chair

Dr. Mike Lee
Vice Chair

Michelle Burton
Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs
Commissioner

Stephen J. Valentine
Commissioner

County boards of commissioners range in size from three members to nine. By far the most popular county board size is five.

County Highlights

DATE ESTABLISHED
April 17, 1881

POPULATION
367,022
**estimation as of 01/01/25*

REGISTERED VOTERS
238,235
**as of 06/2025*

LAND AREA
299 Square Miles

COUNTY SEAT
Durham

LOCATION
North Central North Carolina
**equidistant from PHL and ATL*

TAX DISTRICTS

City of Durham, Town of Morrisville, City of Raleigh, Town of Chapel Hill, City of Durham Business Improvement District, Mangum, Lebanon, Redwood, Mangum Butner Special, Eno, New Hope, Bahama, Durham County Fire/Rescue Research Triangle Park Special

LOCATION OF GENERAL COUNTY OFFICES

Historic County Courthouse

Administration Building I - 200 E. Main Street
Administration Building II - 201 E. Main Street

Administration

Claudia O. Hager, County Manager

The County Manager is hired by the county commissioners to serve as the chief administrative officer of county government. She supervises and coordinates the daily activities of departments for the Board by seeing that all orders, policies and federal or state mandates are carried out. The county manager also recommends an annual budget, makes recommendations on appropriate matters of business, and represents the county in dealing with other agencies. Manager Hager is the ninth manager for Durham County Government.

RTP is home to **more than 300** companies and national labs. For the past decade, major companies have moved to call this region home, and we have seen these key industries begin to take shape:
Life Sciences
Manufacturing
Technology.

A Thriving Community

Durham County is committed to investing in our workforce, small businesses, and infrastructure necessary to maintain the economic well-being of our community.

Research Trinagle Park

Durham County sits at the pinnacle of Research Triangle Park. Established in 1959, the park is home to more than 250 companies and 50,000 experts in their fields. More than $300 million is invested each year—double the average investment for innovation clusters nationally.

North Carolina has the second-fastest growing information technology industry in the U.S., **expanding 26 percent since 2010**.

Just look at some of the company we keep.

With one of the most skilled and knowledgeable work forces in the country at their disposal, it's no wonder so many companies choose to do business in Durham County.

The Top Five Largest Employers in Durham:

- *Duke University*
- *Cisco Systems*
- *IBM Corporation*
- *Fidelity*
- *Veterans Administration*

DPS comprises 57 schools that include year-round and traditional calendar schools, career and technical education, and early college programs.

Durham Public Schools

Durham Public Schools prepare Durham's children to become our future leaders by training them to be innovators for success in a global economy. Each day, educators at DPS ignite the limitless potential of more than 31,000 pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade students.

The district comprises 57 schools that include year-round and traditional calendar schools, career and technical education, and early college programs. Specialized programs include Montessori, international baccalaureate, and dual-language immersion, focused on helping students to become independent and critical thinkers, as well as global leaders. Programs are also available for career and technical education, online learning, and both STEM and arts-focused instruction.

DPS partners with higher education, community agencies, and the business community to deliver an exceptional education with hands-on learning opportunities for all students. One in six teachers are National Board Certified, and an overwhelming majority of schools are meeting or exceeding their growth goals each year. The district and its educators have won numerous accolades, including the prestigious Milken Educator Award, Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School of Excellence, National Magnet Schools of Excellence and Distinction, Project Lead the Way School, and Capturing Kids Heart School, among others. An independently elected seven-member Board of Education governs the school district.

Hospitals and Healthcare

Duke University Hospital is internationally known for its significant contributions to the study of cancer, heart disease and organ transplantation. Duke University Health System also operates Duke Regional Hospital, formerly Durham Regional Hospital, through a sublease with Durham County Hospital Corporation, a non-profit corporation. Duke Regional specializes in pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, orthopedics, as well as, general medicine and surgery.

The Veterans Administration Hospital provides general medicine and surgery. Lincoln Community Health Center houses primary health programs but provides no in-patient care.

Major Business

Durham County has a diversified economy with a strong foundation in biotechnology and life sciences, financial technology, information technologies, nanotechnologies, and green and clean industries. We are also home to powerhouses in pharmacological research and development, financial services, healthcare and education.

Colleges and Universities

- *Duke University*
- *North Carolina Central University*
- *Durham Technical Community College*

Points of Interest

- *American Tobacco Complex*
- *American Tobacco Trail*
- *American Underground*
- *Bennett Place*
- *Black Wall Street*
- *Boxyard RTP*
- *Carolina Theatre*
- *Durham Bull's Ballpark*
- *Durham History Hub*
- *Durham Performing Arts Center*
- *Duke Chapel*
- *Duke Homestead and Tobacco Museum*
- *Duke University's Nasher Museum of Art*
- *Eno River State Park*
- *Historic Parrish Street*
- *Little River Regional Park*
- *North Carolina Central University Art Museum*
- *North Carolina Museum of Life + Science*
- *North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company*
- *Sara P. Duke Memorial Gardens*
- *Stagville*
- *Streets at Southpoint*
- *West Point on the Eno*

Directory of County Services

Board of Commissioners	919-560-0026
Board of Elections	919-560-0700
Budget and Management Services	919-560-0012
City-County Building & Safety	919-560-4144
Clerk to the Board	919-560-0025
Community Intervention and Support Services	919-560-7609
Cooperative Extension	919-560-0525
County Attorney	919-560-0715
County Manager	919-560-0000
Durham Planning and Development	919-560-4137
Justice Services	919-560-0500
Emergency Services	919-560-8285
Engineering and Environmental Services	919-560-0735
Finance	919-560-0035
General Services	919-560-0430
Human Resources	919-560-7900
Information Services and Technology	919-560-7000
Internal Audit	919-560-0042
Library	919-560-0100
Public Health	919-560-7600
Public Information Office	919-560-9920
Register of Deeds	919-560-0480
Sheriff	919-560-0897
Social Services	919-560-8000
Soil and Water Conservation District	919-560-0558
Tax Administration	919-560-0300
Veteran Services	919-560-8387
Youth Home	919-560-0840

Durham County **Accolades**

11 **NACO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS** FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE YEARS

National Association of Counties

#4 **BEST PLACE** TO START A BUSINESS

WalletHub's

#16 **BEST PLACE** FOR BUSINESS & CAREERS

Forbes Magazine

2025 Durham, continues to be on the list of **Best Places to Live in 2025**

Livability

Durham County Government is committed to fair and equitable treatment for all in employment, rooted in the principles of merit and equal opportunity.

This publication was prepared by the Durham County Public Information Office.

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