



ELECTED CLERKS OF SUPERIOR COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA

The Clerk of Superior Court is a constitutional office and is the hub of all judicial proceedings in each of the 100 counties in the state of North Carolina. We provide access to justice and to the North Carolina Courts on a first serve basis.

What we are asking for in 2024: Recognition for the Hub of the Court System

- ✓ Provide pay parity amongst Elected Clerks of Court by consolidating the statutory pay tiers in NCGS 7A-101. Clerks are the only judicial elected official with pay disparity for the same office held. (\$3,919,860)
- ✓ Provide assistance for clerks' offices to ensure staffing levels are met for eCourts (219 FTE). Total ask = \$14,004,393 recurring and \$503,481 non-recurring
 - ❖ Amend NCGS 7A-102 and increase the minimum FTE from 5 to 7.
 - ❖ Provide additional clerks based on the workload formula needs across the state.

The Clerk of Superior Court has 5 main responsibilities and authorities in ALL 100 counties:

- **Judge of Probate**
 - ✓ Holds exclusive original jurisdiction over matters relating to the probate of wills
 - ✓ Holds exclusive original jurisdiction over matters relating to the administration of estates
 - ✓ Presides over adoptions, competency, power of attorney and guardianship proceedings
 - ✓ Presides over condemnations of private lands for public use
 - ✓ Presides over many other civil hearings; has jurisdiction over **46** types of actions.
 - **Record Keeper**
 - ✓ Retains, manages and is solely responsible for the integrity of every case filed
 - ✓ Files, processes, and maintains every piece of paper filed in the NC general court of justice
 - **Administrator**
 - ✓ Issues summons and subpoenas
 - ✓ Sets up the court file and dockets and indexes cases
 - **Leader**
 - ✓ Supervises and manages over *2,845 employees statewide* (approx. 40% of the Judicial Branch)
 - ✓ Only state in the country with the elected clerk as a Probate Judge.
 - **Comptroller**
 - ✓ Receives, invests, and disburses funds collected from court related activity
- ❖ Approximately **1 in 4 people** in the county come through the Clerk's office per year as either a victim of crime, a juror, to probate a family member's will, to get a divorce or to handle a speeding ticket.
 - ❖ Clerks of Superior Court became state employees in 1965 with the implementation of court reform and the creation of a unified state-wide court system. Clerks' jurisdiction has expanded and become more complex in the last **twenty-nine (29) years**. The number of legislative and technological changes affecting the workload in all 100 clerks' offices has continued to rise.