

KIDS VOTING NC 4-H

# 2023 ELECTION GUIDE

Rowan  
County



BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH

KIDSVOTINGDURHAM.ORG

# KIDS VOTING NORTH CAROLINA

## Our Mission

Kids Voting NC helps youth under 18 believe in and understand the power they can have as engaged civic participants and informed voters. Through a combination of youth voice opportunities, classroom lessons & tools for family engagement, and an authentic voting experience, Kids Voting NC is helping build an empowered, engaged, and educated generation of democratic civic participants.

Design credit to RAE BRANDENBURG

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# Not Old Enough to Vote, but Old Enough to Care



## A LETTER FROM KIDS VOTING YOUTH LEADERS TO YOUTH

As the future of North Carolina, you can play a major role in the upcoming election. Youth 18 and under make up about 22% of North Carolina's population. Together, we have the power to make a difference in the elections.

Voter awareness and participation is huge, as policies that affect day-to-day life are at stake. The more you know about candidates, the better. Use your knowledge to speak with your peers and parents about the issues and elections that matter most to you. Talk like this election affects you—**because it does!**



As youth, elected officials want to hear our unique perspectives. Most of the candidates in this election answered our questions; they listened to us, and they'll listen to you too. All you have to do is **speak up** for what you believe in.



# 5 WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE ELECTIONS, EVEN IF YOU CAN'T LEGALLY VOTE

## 1 *Make sure the adults in your life make an informed decision about their vote*

- ↘ Make sure adults know the candidates, issues, voting dates, and requirements.  
Talk with them about the election or help them make a voting plan

## 2 *Use your voice*

- ↘ Talk about issues you care about, contact elected officials, and stand up for your beliefs

## 3 *Throw an election party*

- ↘ Voting is something to celebrate.  
Organize a party with people of all ages to talk about the upcoming election.

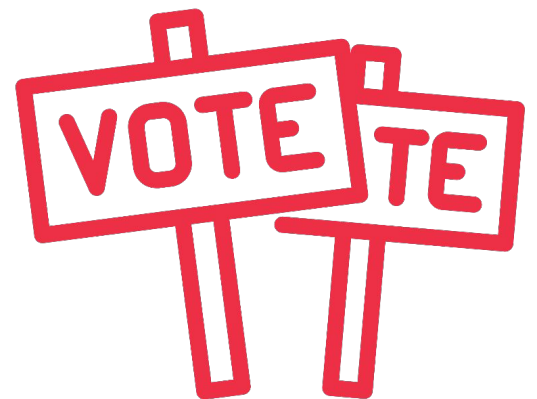


## 4 *Vote and volunteer with Kids Voting*

- ↘ Youth under 18 can vote in KVD Youth elections to share what they think about the same candidates adults are voting for.

## 5 *Get out the vote*

- ↘ Host a “Pledge the Vote” drive to help adults vote in the elections
- ↘ Plan your own [GOTV campaign](#)



# Kids Can Vote Too!

## Here's How:

### Where

Rowan County Cooperative Extension  
2727 Old Concord Road, Salisbury, NC

### When

Tuesday, November 7  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### How

Come into our main lobby to fill out a “registration card” and then vote on an iPad!

**Youth voices matter, so bring a friend & get informed! (Read the guide!)**



# First-Time Voter Information

You are eligible to vote if you:

- 1) Are 18 years or older by Tuesday, November 7
- 2) Are a US Citizen
- 3) Have lived in NC for at least 30 days
- 4) Are not currently serving a sentence for a felony

## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- ★ You must register in order to vote. You can register in-person, online at [www.rowancountync.gov/267/Register-to-Vote](http://www.rowancountync.gov/267/Register-to-Vote), by mail, or at One-Stop Early Voting
- ★ You may vote at ANY polling place during One-Stop Early Voting, Oct 19–Nov 54
  - ↳ Find early voting information at [www.rowancountync.gov/191/Elections](http://www.rowancountync.gov/191/Elections)
- ★ You may ONLY vote at your designated polling place on Election Day, November 7
  - ↳ Find your polling location at [www.rowancountync.gov/323/Find-My-Precinct-and-Polling-Place](http://www.rowancountync.gov/323/Find-My-Precinct-and-Polling-Place)
- ★ You MUST show voter ID, but you may need to show a photo ID & provide proof of address (bank statement, utility bill, paycheck, or government document) if you're a first-time voter and are registering at One-Stop Early Voting

To check your registration and download a sample copy of your ballot, visit [vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/](http://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/)



**Find out more about adult voting in  
2023 NC Elections at  
[YouCanVote.Org/VoterGuide](http://YouCanVote.Org/VoterGuide)**

# About NC Municipalities

## City, Town, or Village – Does it matter what kind of municipality?

There are 552 Municipalities in North Carolina. For every NC Municipality, the NC General Assembly (State Government) has approved a **“Charter”** that authorizes that area to form a local government and outlines the powers, responsibilities, and services for that local government. municipalities can be called Cities, Towns, or Villages. There is no difference between a city, town, or village in terms of size or function – it is just what the area decided to call itself in its Charter.

The State Government allows cities and other municipalities to provide certain services to its residents, and each municipality decides which ones they will offer.

## What Does Your Municipality Do?

NC Cities and other municipalities provide a variety of services to their residents. The services vary for different NC cities and towns based on what is allowed by the NC State Government and written in their Charter. Do you know which services your city provides?

WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF CITIES AND COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA? Table 1-1

FUNCTION	COUNTY MUST PROVIDE	CITY MUST PROVIDE	COUNTY MAY PROVIDE	CITY MAY PROVIDE
LAW ENFORCEMENT	✓			✓
JAILS	✓			✓
MEDICAL EXAMINER	✓			
COURTS	✓			
FIRE PROTECTION			✓	✓
STREETS				✓
WATER			✓	✓
SEWER			✓	✓
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION			✓	✓
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL			✓	✓
LAND USE REGULATION			✓	✓
BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT	✓	✓		
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	✓			
COMMUNITY COLLEGES			✓	
LIBRARIES			✓	✓
SOCIAL SERVICES	✓			✓
PUBLIC HEALTH	✓			✓
MENTAL HEALTH	✓			✓
HOSPITALS			✓	✓
DEED REGISTRATION	✓			
ELECTION ADMINISTRATION	✓			
PARKS AND RECREATION			✓	✓
TAX ASSESSMENT	✓			
TAX COLLECTION			✓	✓

Adapted from Cities and Counties Elective Offices, UNC School of Government



# Who Decides?

All Municipal governments in North Carolina are governed by an elected set of officials which can be called a City or Town Council, a Board of Commissioners, or a Board of Aldermen. These elected officials approve the budget for providing city services, set the property rate and issue bonds, and set the rules for that local area.

The municipality’s charter describes how decisions are made by the governing body, but the 3 general ways local governments are organized are as a Mayor-Council, Mayor-Council-Administrator, or Council-Manager form of government.

Municipal Government Formation	Responsibility and Authority	Table 1-2
Mayor - Council <i>All elected</i>	The mayor and the council act together to make decisions about revenues, expenditures and services. There is no manager.	
Mayor - Council with Administrator <i>Administrator appointed by Council</i>	The mayor and council authorize an Administrator to manage the day-to-day operations of municipal government.	
Council - Manager <i>Manager appointed by Council</i>	The mayor and council set policy and hire a Manager to implement their policies. The Manager has specific statutory authority.	



# Rowan County information:

## ***City of Kannapolis (3 City Council)***

<https://kannapolisnc.gov/>

Officially incorporated in 1984, the City of Kannapolis is a **Council-Manager form of municipal government**. Kannapolis is governed by a Mayor and a City Council, consisting of six members who are elected to four-year terms. Each November, Council elects one of its members to serve as Mayor Pro tem for one year. The Mayor and Mayor Pro tem have the same powers as the other members of Council and vote upon all issues. The Mayor serves as the spokesperson for the Council and is authorized to execute legal documents on behalf of the City. The Kannapolis City Council meets regularly twice a month on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

## ***City of Salisbury (1 Mayor, 4 City Council)***

<https://salisburync.gov/>

The City Council is the governing body of the City of Salisbury. The Council is comprised of five members who are elected on a non-partisan basis for two-year terms. Each Council member serves at-large and represents the entire City. The City of Salisbury has a **Council-Manager form of government**.

The City Council meets every first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. [Council meetings](#) are open to the public.

## ***Town of China Grove (1 Mayor, 2 Town Council)***

<https://www.chinagrovecnc.gov/>

The Town of China Grove is governed by a Mayor and Council who are elected by the people of the Town. The Mayor and Council act together as the Governing Body. All elected Council serve staggered four-year terms. The Governing Body, being the elected representative of the people, adopts all ordinances and resolutions and determines the general goals and policies. The Mayor is elected by all the qualified voters of the Town for a term of four years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The Mayor is the official head of the Town government and presides at meetings of the Town Board and shall have the right to vote only when there is an equal division on any question or matter before the Town Board, and shall exercise the powers and duties conferred by law or as directed by the Town Board.

The Town of China Grove operates under the Council-Manager form of government. Under this system, the citizens of China Grove elect a Mayor and a five-member Town Council. The elected Mayor and Town Council set forth policies, goals and direction of the government including adopting necessary laws. The Town Manager is appointed by the Town Council, and is directly in charge of all departments of the local government as well as all personnel, and oversees the day-to-day operation of the Town government. The Manager is also responsible for the development and administration of the Town's Annual Budget and Capital Improvement Plan and acts as a liaison between the citizens by reporting issues to the Mayor and Town Council. The Town Manager is assisted in his duties by the Town Clerk.

# Rowan County information:

## ***Town of Cleveland (1 Mayor, 2 Commissioners, 1 Commissioner unexp)***

<https://townofclevelandnc.gov/>

The Town of Cleveland operates with a five-member Board of Commissioners, elected every four years to staggered terms. The Mayor is elected separately from the Board of Commissioners and votes only to break ties of the Board, should a board member not be present during a vote. The Mayor serves a two-year term. Each Board member is assigned specific duties by the Mayor, such as Annexation, [Water & Sewer](#), [Streets & Sidewalks](#), [Parks & Recreation](#), Zoning, Personnel, Town Maintenance, and more.

## ***Town of East Spencer (1 Mayor, 3 Aldermen)***

<https://eastspencer.gov/>

The Town of East Spencer is governed by a Mayor and six Board members, who acting together are the Governing Body of the Town. The Mayor serves a two-year term and the Board members serve staggered four-year terms. The Board meets at Town Hall, 105 S. Long Street, East Spencer at 6:30 PM for scheduled meetings where they adopt all ordinances and resolutions, make appointments to commissions and committees, establishes policies and priorities, and sets the direction for the Town. The Town Board of Aldermen also appoints a Town Administrator, who serves at the pleasure of the Board, to conduct the business of the Town, supervise staff, manage finances, prepare meetings and assist the Town as needed.

## ***Town of Faith (5 Aldermen)***

<https://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/HTML/1961-1962/SL1961-159.html>

The Town of Faith is governed by 5 aldermen who elect one of them to be Mayor. Aldermen are elected for 2 year terms.

## ***Town of Granite Quarry (1 Mayor, 2 Aldermen, 1 Aldermen unexp)***

<https://www.granitequarrync.gov/>

The Town operates under the Council-Manager form of government as provided in G.S. Chapter 160A, Article 7, Part 2. Under this form of government, the Council (a.k.a. "governing body", "Board of Aldermen", "Town Board", "Board") has the primary responsibility for establishing the general framework under which the government can meet the needs of the community and has a professional Manager to carry out Town policy and manage the Town government's operations, departments, and personnel. The Board makes broad policy decisions, enacts town ordinances, and establishes the annual municipal levy of taxes, in all cases acting as a collective body to represent the best interest of the Town of Granite Quarry and its citizens.

Granite Quarry's Board of Aldermen has five members, consisting of a Mayor and four voting Aldermen (Mayor only votes to break a tie). The qualified voters of the entire Town elect the members of the Board. Aldermen are elected to four-year staggered terms, and the Mayor is elected separately every two years. At the organizational meeting of the Board following each election, the Board appoints one of its members to serve as "Mayor Pro-Tem", who fulfills the duties of Mayor in the Mayor's absence.

The Mayor is the official head of the Town for the purpose of service of civil process, and for ceremonial purposes. He or she presides over board meetings, is often the liaison among the Board to other political officials for advocating Board direction and goals, and may have other powers and duties as may be lawfully conferred upon him or her by the Board.

# Rowan County information:

## ***Town of Landis (1 Mayor, 2 Aldermen)***

<https://townoflandisnc.gov/government/mayor-and-aldermen/> The Board of Aldermen is the governing body within the Town of Landis. Elections are held every two years with staggered terms and the Board is comprised of the Mayor and four Aldermen. Regular Scheduled Meetings: The Town Board of Aldermen meet on the Second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Landis City Hall. These meetings are open to the public. Each regular scheduled meeting has an opportunity for public comments.

## ***Town of Rockwell (1 Mayor, 5 Aldermen)***

<https://rockwellnc.gov/index.php>

The Town of Rockwell is chartered under the **Mayor/Council form of Government**. This means that the Mayor is elected under a separate ballot than the Board of Aldermen. The Mayor and five aldermen seats are up for election every two years, on odd numbered years. There is no Town Manager nor Administrator.

## ***Town of Spencer (1 Mayor, 5 Aldermen)***

<https://spencernc.gov/>

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen are all elected at-large, on a non-partisan basis, to two-year terms. The Mayor serves as the presiding officer at Board of Aldermen meetings and as the official head of the Town at ceremonies and events.

Under the council-manager form of government, the Board of Aldermen acts as the legislative body in establishing policy and law, including adopting an annual budget. The Board appoints a professional Town Manager to handle the day-to-day management of the Town services and staff. The Board of Aldermen also appoints members of various boards and commissions.

The Town of Spencer operates under the council-manager form of government. Under this form of government, Spencer residents elect a governing body – including the Mayor as chief elected official – to adopt legislation and set policy. The governing body then hires a professional manager with broad executive authority to carry out those policies and oversee the local government's day-to-day operations.

# Glossary

**BALLOT:** a way of casting a written vote on candidates and issues

**CANDIDATE:** a person running for office

**CITY MANAGER:** the day-to-day manager of all City Government activities, hired by the City Council.

**CITY OR TOWN COUNCIL:** a group of people who are elected by citizens to run City or Town Government

**DISTRICT:** a part of a county or city

**MAYOR:** the leader of City Council or Municipality

**MUNICIPALITY:** A City or town with its own government

**NONPARTISAN:** Not associated with any political parties

**PARTISAN:** Associated with political parties

**POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

**POLITICAL PARTY:** an organized group of citizens that hold similar goals and ideas

**PRECINCT:** a district of a city or town; a location where people in that precinct vote

**PRIMARY ELECTION:** An election held before the general election for a political party to choose their candidates to run in the general election

**UNAFFILIATED (or INDEPENDENT):** A candidate not associated with a political party