

Durham County Government is an Equal Employment/Affirmative Action Employer.

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

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nextdoor Durham County Government



DPS's 53 schools include 23 magnet programs, year round and traditional calendar schools, and small specialty high schools



## Durham Public Schools

33,000 students from Kindergarten through 12th grade learn and grow in DPS's 53 schools, 23 offering magnet programs. DPS partners with higher education, community agencies and the business community to deliver innovative education to all students. An independently elected seven-member Board of Education governs the school district.

DPS is the catalyst for preparing Durham's future leaders and innovators for success in a global economy. Each day, DPS ignites the limitless potential of more than 32,000 PreK through twelfth grade students. DPS's 53 schools include 23 magnet programs, year round and traditional calendar schools, and small specialty high schools. DPS partners with higher education, community agencies and the business community to deliver innovative education to all students. An independently elected seven-member Board of Education governs the school district.

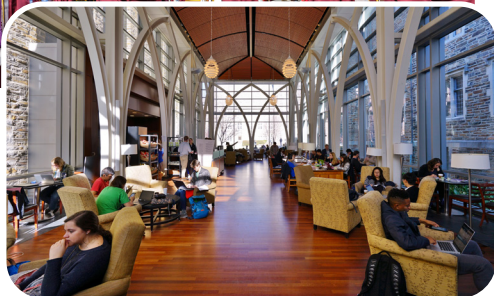
## Hospitals and Healthcare

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
- > Carolina Theatre
- > Black Wall Street
- > Historic Parrish Street
- > Durham History Hub
- > Durham Performing Arts Center
- > Duke Chapel
- > Duke University's Nasher Museum of Art
- > Duke Homestead and Tobacco Museum
- > Streets at Southpoint
- > Sara P. Duke Memorial Gardens
- > Durham Bull's Ballpark
- > Eno River State Park
- > Hayti Heritage Center
- > Little River Regional Park
- > North Carolina Museum of Life + Science
- > North Carolina Central University Art Museum
- > North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company
- > Stagville
- > 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 Inspections..... 919-560-4144
- City/County Planning ..... 919-560-4137
- Clerk to the Board ..... 919-560-0025
- Community Intervention ..... 919-560-7609 and Support Services
- Cooperative Extension..... 919-560-0525
- County Attorney..... 919-560-0715
- County Manager ..... 919-560-0000
- Criminal Justice Resource Center.. 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
- 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 At A Glance



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



### 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 seven county managers.



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. And DCo provides a range of services to all those who live here.



### 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 Administrative Complex, 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](http://dconc.gov).



**Brenda Howerton** Chair  
**Wendy Jacobs** Vice Chair  
**Nida Allam**



**Nimasheena Burns**  
**Heidi Carter**

**In 2020, the people of Durham elected the first all-female Board of County Commissioners**

### Board of Commissioners

**DATE ESTABLISHED**  
April 17, 1881

**POPULATION**  
340,824  
*\*as of 08/01/21*

**REGISTERED VOTE**  
229,322  
*\*as of 08/01/21*

**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**  
200 East Main Street, Durham NC 27701

**Administration**  
**Dr. Kimberly J. Sowell**, County Manager

The County Manager is hired by the county commissioners to serve as the chief administrative officer of county government. He 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. Dr. Sowell is the eighth manager for Durham County Government.



RTP is home to **more than 300** companies and national labs



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

### History

Durham County has evolved from an agricultural and manufacturing economy to attain world-class status in the areas of medicine, science and technology. In the process, it has become one of the country's most desirable places to live. The internationally known Research Triangle Park is home to more than 300 companies and national labs including global research and development organizations like Biogen, Eli Lilly, EPA, BASF, Credit Suisse, CREE, Cisco, GlaxoSmithKline, IBM, NIEHS, and RTI International. These companies and others in the park employ approximately 55,000 employees. Other major manufacturing and research and development companies, including AW North Carolina, Merck, bioMerieux, Corning, and Novo Nordisk are located in the northern section of the county in Treyburn Corporate Park. Burt's Bees HQ is joined in downtown Durham by Clorox and Policygenius.

### 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.

- > Merck
- > Eli Lilly
- > Biogen
- > Novartis Gene Therapies
- > Corning
- > BASF
- > Credit Suisse
- > CREE
- > Cisco
- > GlaxoSmithKline
- > IBM
- > RTI International
- > AW North Carolina
- > bioMerieux
- > Burt's Bees