

# County Commissioners

## Department Summary

		<b>FY 2003 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2004 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>FY 2004 Current Budget</b>	<b>FY 2005 Adopted Budget</b>
Personal Services	\$	312,502	305,099	321,294	316,037
Operating Expenses		86,859	132,431	134,826	127,480
Capital Outlay		0	0	0	0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>399,361</b>	<b>437,530</b>	<b>456,120</b>	<b>443,517</b>
<b>Number of FTEs</b>		<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>

## Department Description

The Board of Commissioners, a seven-member elected group, is the governing and policy-making body of Wake County. The County Commissioners are elected by the registered voters of Wake County in partisan elections held in November of even-numbered years. Commissioners hold office for four years and maintain staggered terms, with four commissioners' races held in one general election and the other three elections held two years later.

The Commissioners establish goals for County government, provide policy direction on specific issues to the County Manager, and ensure accountability to the citizens. Each year the Board approves an annual financial plan and sets property tax rates and fees for the County and for special taxing districts. Specific actions include adopting appropriate ordinances, rules and regulations as methods for executing the policies. Further, the Board of Commissioners appoints members to boards and commissions that it establishes, as well as to other boards established by state legislation. By law, the Board of Commissioners also directly appoints three principal officials: County Manager, County Attorney and Clerk to the Board, all of whom serve at the pleasure of the

Board.

## Priorities

- Develop and implement Growth Management, Watershed Management, Open Space and Transportation plans
- Take a leadership role in developing air quality strategies in Wake County
- Maintain a tax rate which is as low as possible while maintaining necessary services
- Adopt a strategy to ensure that the County keeps its AAA bond rating
- Ensure fiscal responsibility through greater Board committee analysis and review
- Assess the effectiveness of Human Services in meeting the needs of the most needy in the County; help the County meet Human Services goals
- Take a leadership role to develop partnerships to share the solid waste problem and to develop solutions

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- Jointly develop a process for fiscal planning for the next four years that will support the school system meeting its goals while being fiscally responsible in addressing operating and capital budgets
- Approve a referendum to provide \$40 million for Wake Technical Community College and \$26 million for execution of the Open Space Master Plan

### Highlights

- Implementation plan for Wake County's growth management, watershed management, and open space acquisition/protection
- With the support of Wake County voters, issued a successful bond referendum providing \$450 million for school construction and \$35 million for public library facilities with no additional tax burden
- Approved the purchase of 778 acres of land for open space, bringing the total to 1,494 acres purchased by the County as part of the Open Space Master Plan
- Initiated plans to issue \$66 million in bonds in November of 2004, with \$40 million to be raised for the new North Wake Campus of Wake Technical Community College and the remaining \$26 million to be earmarked for the purchase of land in accordance with the Open Space Master Plan.
- Entered into an interlocal agreement with the City of Raleigh to fund the construction of a new convention center and hotel. Scheduled to open in 2007 just west of the current site in downtown Raleigh, this project will be funded by the occupancy and prepared food and beverage tax.
- Enhanced interlocal cooperation with the twelve municipalities within Wake County to provide the highest level of service to all county residents
- Successfully presented financial plans to rating agencies to maintain the County's AAA bond rating.
- Activated an on-line volunteer application system to enable citizens to more easily participate in the governing process as members of advisory boards and committees.