

Focus on Currituck

The Official Newsletter of Currituck County Government

Commissioners Reduce Property Tax Rate

Board sets new rate of \$0.60 in FY2027 Budget

Summer 2026

The Board of Commissioners adopted a \$92 million Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 that lowers the property tax rate by two cents, to a new rate of \$0.60 per \$100 valuation. The tax reduction is directly related to confirmation of the county's authority to use occupancy tax to support public safety services.

The lower property tax rate means that the property tax on a home valued at \$400,000 will be \$2,400, reduced from \$2,480. The county's property tax rate was \$0.62 the previous two years.

What's new? The budget includes:

- Implementation of a pre-hospital blood transfusion program for Fire-EMS
- Conceptual development for more efficient office and meeting space at the Corolla Satellite Office
- Lighting upgrades at the COA Aviation building
- Tanker truck replacement for the Moyock VFD
- Health Department reception renovation
- Passenger van replacement for Senior Services

- Knotts Island Ruritan Park restroom remodel
- Currituck County High School tennis courts resurfacing

Within the operating budget, the largest portion of funding supports public safety. Public safety accounts for 38% of expenditures supporting the Currituck County Sheriff's Office, Fire-Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, 911 Communications, Inspections, Animal Services and Control, and the Detention Center.

Twenty-two percent of the operating budget supports education. This funding is allocated to Currituck County Schools and College of The Albemarle. General government operations accounts for 14% of the operating budget.



Want to learn more about the county's Operating Budget? Look on www.CurrituckCountyNC.gov under the Finance Department.

Community Meetings Discuss Priorities & Gather Valuable Feedback

Thank you to all residents who participated in recent community meetings hosted by the Board of Commissioners. The public feedback provided valuable input into our community's strengths, areas for improvement, and vision for the future.

Staff are reviewing and organizing the information gathered and will soon share common themes that emerged from the conversations. We will also provide context on issues the county can directly address through services and policies, issues the county may influence through partnerships, advocacy, and collaboration with other organizations, and issues that are important but fall outside the county's direct authority or responsibility.

The county strives to maintain transparency throughout the Strategic Plan process and help citizens understand how local government is able to respond to the needs of the community.

Information gathered in the meetings will help guide the Strategic Plan and future decision-making efforts. We look forward to sharing the results of the meetings and continuing to engage with the community.

ONLINE SURVEY OPEN FOR CITIZEN INPUT

Citizens may provide feedback on the Strategic Plan and submit concerns through a brief survey. Scan the QR code with a phone or access the survey on the county website.



In Currituck, Policy and Regulations Guide Developmental Decisions

Certain rules and adopted policies are used to guide growth and development in Currituck County. The **Imagine Currituck 2040 Vision Plan** sets direction, the **Unified Development Ordinance** establishes the rules, and the **Official Zoning Map** applies those rules to land. All apply to the entire county and Commissioners and staff follow these documents when deciding on each developmental proposal.

If you're interested in learning more, each of these three documents is available on the county website.



Vision

Rules

Map (Where)

Difference Between a Plan and an Ordinance

Plan: A document, adopted by an agency, that contains, in text, maps, and/or graphics, a method of proceeding, based on analysis and the application of foresight, to guide, direct, or constrain subsequent actions to achieve goals, policies, guidelines, and standards.

Ordinance: A law or regulation set forth and adopted by a governmental authority, usually a city or county.

PLANS VS. ORDINANCES	
PLANS	ORDINANCES
Guiding document	Regulatory document
Where we want to go	How we get there
Visionary	Enforceable

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Currituck Selected for NCACC Documentary

A film crew from 100 Strong Productions, the video production department of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), visited Currituck in May to get footage for an upcoming documentary. Currituck was one of six counties selected for the project by the NCACC.

The documentary looks at how counties are successfully navigating change that comes with growth. Currituck was selected for its consistent growth rate and ability to adapt while providing excellent services for citizens. Other factors that attracted the NCACC to Currituck are the county's unique geography and strong tourism industry. The NCACC anticipates completion of the documentary in August.

Speaking with the film crew were: Paul O'Neal, Board of Commissioners Chairman; Rebecca Gay, County Manager; Cameron Lowe, Cooperative Extension Director; Jennie Turner, Planning Director; and Richard Lane, Fire-EMS Chief.



Commissioner Paul O'Neal speaks with Chris Baucom, 100 Strong Productions Director.

Online System Makes Applying for Permits Easy and Efficient

Applying for building permits and tracking Inspection appointments is easy with the Citizens Self Service portal. Users can access their building permits online, apply for specific building permits, view inspection results and pay for fees with a credit card. Creating an account is easy!

Set it up yourself on the county website, under Citizen Self Service, or contact the Permit Office at 232-3378 for assistance.

Home

Citizen Self Service

Occupancy Tax

Non-Emergency Requests

Permits and Inspections

Personal Property

Real Estate

Utility Billing



**Check out
Citizens Self Service!**

The menu of online services for Currituck County's website offers permit applications, property and tax information, online utility bill pay, and more.

Gregory Earns Veteran Support Specialist Designation

Currituck County Veteran Services Officer received the Veteran Support Specialist Certificate through the Governor's Institute MilVet Academy. This program provides education in peer support, crisis management, military culture, de-escalation techniques, suicide prevention awareness, and VA resource navigation.

This training will help Gregory (center) provide better assistance to local veterans and their families in accessing benefits, health resources, and community programs.



Tice Honored By US Secret Service

The United States Secret Service recognized Detective Sergeant W.C. Tice of the Currituck County Sheriff's Office as one of the top Digital Forensic Examiners in the nation. Congratulations Detective Tice!



L-R: Meghan Dubea, USSS, Chief Deputy Jeff Walker, Detective Tice, Captain Kevin McCord, and Lieutenant Jesse Taylor

Young Leads Currituck Public Library

Currituck County is pleased to announce the appointment of April Young as our new Library Director. April joined the County on June 1, 2026, bringing more than 16 years of experience in North Carolina public libraries.

Most recently, April served as Library Director for the Rutherford County Library System, a position she held since January 2015. She earned her Master of Library Science (M.L.S.) degree from North Carolina Central University in 2009 and has maintained her North Carolina Public Library Certification since July 2010. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated strong leadership, operational expertise, and a commitment to advancing library services for her communities.

Of particular significance, April successfully led Rutherford County's migration to NC Cardinal in 2020 and has extensive experience with the platform.

We look forward to the leadership, knowledge, and perspective she will bring to Currituck County as the library joins the NC Cardinal system and builds upon the excellent library services provided to residents.

"I am truly excited to be joining the Currituck County team in this capacity. With our transition to the statewide NC Cardinal Library System, it's an opportunity to engage with our residents and showcase what makes libraries an important part of the community. I have a passion for programming and community engagement and want everyone to love libraries as much as I do." - April Young



County Expands Library Catalog by Joining NC Cardinal System

Hiring a new Library Director comes as the East Albemarle Regional Library (EARL) is dissolving; however, your Currituck Branches are not going anywhere but are now becoming an official county department. As part of the EARL dissolution, the county libraries are joining NC Cardinal, a statewide library consortium. By participating in NC Cardinal, Currituck County will have access to a library catalog with over 8.1 million items, 235 physical branches and 56 library systems.

Library patrons will not need to obtain a new library card with the transition to NC Cardinal and may still visit any library branch.

The public is encouraged to follow the library on social media and sign up for the library newsletter. More information can also be found on the library's website at CurrituckCountyNC.gov/library.

CURRITUCK ALERT

Emergency Alert System Upgraded, Citizens Must Register for Messages

Currituck County Emergency Management acquired a new operating system for Currituck Alert, a mass notification system that sends emergency safety messages to subscribers. The new platform allows for ease-of-use, increased efficiency, and a greater range of options.

This service is free for citizens. Users have options of receiving alerts via text message, voice message, and email. These selections are made when registering for the notification system.

Emergency alerts are valuable during critical incidents such as severe weather or natural disasters. Currituck Alert also provides important local information such as unexpected road closures. Users can also receive information related to the beach, including rip current and beach flag warnings, through the SafeCorolla option. Call 232-2115 if you have any questions about Currituck Alert.

Scan the QR code to register for alerts.

The registration link is also available on the Currituck County website, under the Emergency Management department.



Everyone who was registered for Currituck Alert on the old platform must register with the new system!

The screenshot shows the Currituck Alert registration interface. At the top, there's a 'Language' dropdown menu. Below it, the 'Currituck Alert' title is followed by a descriptive paragraph about the service. A red asterisk indicates required fields. The form includes a 'Preferred Language' dropdown, a 'Select Language' dropdown, and input fields for 'First Name' and 'Last Name'. There is a checkbox for 'Someone is assisting me in setting up my account.' Below these are fields for 'Email', 'User ID' (with a note 'Using your Email for User ID is recommended'), and 'Password' (with a toggle for visibility).

Conners Serving on State Board

Currituck County 911 Communications is proud to share that Rebecca Conners, Communications Director, was recently sworn-in to serve on the North Carolina NENA Board as the Eastern Region Director.

NENA, the National Emergency Number Association, supports the advancement of 911 through education, standards, advocacy, and collaboration. This role provides an opportunity to represent eastern North Carolina, support public safety communications professionals, and help move the 911 industry forward across the state.

911 Progresses on Emergency Fire Dispatch System

Currituck County Emergency Communications is moving forward with the implementation of Emergency Fire Dispatch, an important project designed to strengthen fire-related call processing and improve consistency in emergency response. This project has required significant investment from many stakeholders, including emergency communications personnel, fire and EMS partners, county leadership, technology vendors, and training staff. Their time, input, and commitment have been essential as we prepare for this next step in service delivery.

Emergency Fire Dispatch will help ensure that callers receive structured, consistent, and timely assistance while responders receive clear and reliable information. We are grateful for the collaboration that continues to support this important public safety improvement.

Lane Promoted to Fire-EMS Chief

Richard Lane was promoted to Chief of Fire-Emergency Medical Services on June 1, 2026. Lane served as the department's Deputy Chief since May of 2021 and also served in other leadership roles, including Lieutenant and Captain, since joining the Currituck County Department of Fire-EMS in 1998.

Lane holds an Associate Degree from College of the Albemarle and a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Medical Care and Healthcare Administration from Western Carolina University. He is a North Carolina Paramedic, Fire Officer IV, Fire Instructor II, and holds numerous state and national certifications in fire, EMS, emergency management, and leadership. He began his career in 1993 as a volunteer with the Moyock Volunteer Fire Department.





PUBLIC REFERENDUMS

NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION



Quarter-Cent Sales Tax Referendum

Voters in Currituck County will decide whether or not to implement a quarter-cent sales tax on certain items in order to generate more funding for county services. The Board of Commissioners has determined that all additional revenue collected will be put towards infrastructure improvements and public safety services for citizens.

The North Carolina General Assembly allows counties to impose this special tax, which is currently used by 48 counties, as a strategy to increase revenue. This tool is particularly effective in areas with a strong tourism industry such as Currituck County.

The quarter-cent sales tax will apply to vacation rentals, prepared food and drinks, clothing, and household supplies. A key point is that it's collected from everyone who makes a purchase in Currituck County, including hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

Look on the county website for more information on the quarter-cent sales tax referendum.

More information is available at
www.CurrituckCountyNC.gov

Certain purchases
are EXEMPT from
the quarter-cent
sales tax:

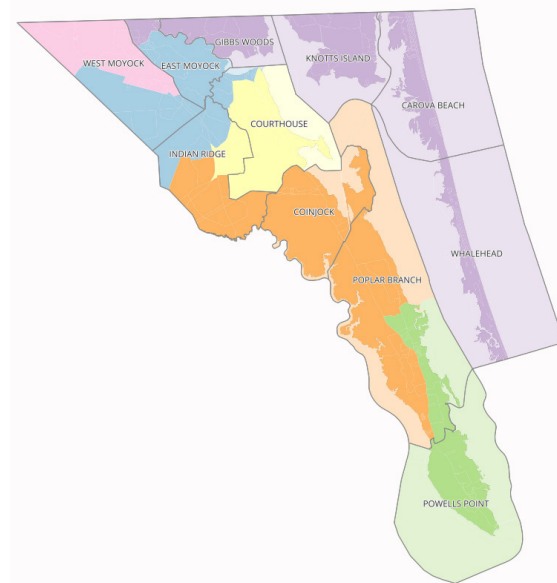
Gasoline
Groceries
Prescriptions
Vehicles

Voters to Decide on Board's Electoral Structure

Voters will choose between the current electoral structure for the Board of Commissioners and a new structure that features six electoral districts.

Current Structure: Five residency district seats and two at-large seats. Commissioners from residency districts must live in the district but are elected by voters countywide. At-large seats are not bound by a residency requirement and are voted on countywide.

Proposed Structure: Six electoral districts and one at-large seat. Commissioners from electoral districts must live in the district and are elected only by district voters. The at-large seat is not bound by a district and is elected countywide. The purpose of this structure is to balance districts by population and ensure representation for all communities within Currituck County.



View the current
Five District Map
and
proposed Six
District Map
on the county
website

Partisan School Board Election is Third Referendum on Ballot

Currituck County voters will decide whether or not to have School Board candidates identified by their political party registration. Currently, School Board elections are non-partisan. If the referendum passes, candidates would be listed on future ballots by their political party designation.



Yoga Classes and Special Events Planned in Historic Corolla Park

Please join us on Thursday mornings this summer at Whalehead in Historic Corolla Park for an all-levels, 60-minute Yoga class. Classes are held outside on the South Lawn of the Whalehead museum overlooking the sound. Please bring a yoga mat, beach towel or tapestry, plenty of water and sun protection. Thursdays at 7:30 am through September 3

Visit the Tourism Department's website for information on events throughout the county, such as Corolla Cork & Craft on August 5, and to learn about special Whalehead tours.

www.northernouterbanks.com

*A sample of events at
Currituck Public Library:*

Barco Library, 453-8345

FALL STORYTIME, Sept. 15 - Dec. 9
Toddler (18 mos. - 5 yrs), Tuesdays, 10 am
Preschool (3-5 yrs), Wednesdays, 10 am

ADULT PROGRAMS

Sept. 12: Puzzle Swap, 10 am
Sept. 17: Basic Jewelry Making, 2 pm

Moyock Library, 435-6419

ALL AGES

Sept. 18: Book Fair, 9 am - 6 pm
Sept. 19: Book Fair, 8:30 am - 12 pm
Sept. 19: Fall Festival, 10 am - 12 pm

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AGES 6-11

Aug. 20: Straw Mosaics, 4 pm

TEEN PROGRAMS AGES 12-17

Sept. 23: Dungeons & Dragons, 4:30 pm

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aug. 18: Aging Well at Home, 3 pm
Sept. 24: Corolla Wild Horse Fund, 3 pm

Corolla Library, 453-0496

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Aug. 24-28: Straw Mosaic Craft Bag
Sept. 21-25: Scarecrow Craft Bag

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aug. 17-21: Floral Watercolor Packet

Senior Center Fills Summer with Activities

The following is a sample of upcoming activities planned by the Currituck Senior Center. You must wait until activities are scheduled in the Senior Center Newsletter to sign up.

August:

- Tides Baseball Night
- Shell Castle MOA
- Sock Hop
- Rivers Casino
- Butterbean Auction
- BBQ Picnic, Powells Point
- The Waterman's Museum, Knotts Island

September:

- Tides Baseball Night
- Annual Volunteer Banquet
- Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Powells Pt.
- Military Aviation Museum, Knotts Island

Sign up the Senior Center Newsletter for FREE by calling 232-3505 or register on the county website. The newsletter contains a full list of activities.

Find Library Events Online

Check @curritucklib
on Facebook
or scan the QR code:



Find Cooperative Extension Info & Events Online

<https://currituck.ces.ncsu.edu>

For the Eventbrite Calendar,
scan the QR code.



Check out the Mainland Event Calendar

The mainland event calendar can be accessed from the Currituck County website and provides a listing of upcoming county-sponsored events, programs, and classes, as well as community events, sports, live music, and other listings hosted by local businesses and community groups. Planners may also submit their events online. Find the Event Calendar link in the top right corner of the county website's homepage.

SAVE THE DATE!

Planes & Plows Coming up on Saturday, October 10

Plan to visit the Currituck Regional Airport on Saturday, October 10 for the annual Planes & Plows special event. Along with agricultural demos, children's activities, music, vendors, and airplane demos, this year will feature an Air Show by some amazing stunt pilots!



Get Involved!

Volunteer with Currituck County



Volunteer Fire Departments

Learn about the various roles available for citizens, from emergency scene response to fundraising events and administrative tasks. Visit your local fire station or contact the county's volunteer recruitment coordinator, Jason Sample, at 232-7746.



Parks & Recreation

Several opportunities are available, including serving as a head coach or assistant coach with a youth sports team. Volunteers are an important part of the Special Olympics program and with youth sports skills workouts and team drafts. Contact Parks & Recreation at 232-3007.



Cooperative Extension

Volunteers support programs such as 4-H youth development, gardening and horticulture education, family and consumer sciences, community events, and advisory leadership. No special expertise is required and training is provided. Call 232-2261.



Animal Shelter

There are many opportunities to volunteer, ranging from walking dogs to assisting staff at adopt-a-thons and other special events. Daily tasks at the animal shelter include cleaning cages and dog runs, socializing animals, walking dogs, and feeding the pets. Call the shelter at 453-8682.



Senior Services

Volunteers are critical to the success of the seniors' home delivered meals program, which provides hot, nutritious food for homebound senior citizens each day. Participate as often as you'd like and different delivery routes are available throughout Currituck. Contact the Currituck Senior Center at 232-3505.



Public Library

Volunteers play an important role in enhancing the library experience. Volunteers assist with preparation and execution of events, support youth activities, and cleaning. Please visit your local branch to learn more or contact the main library branch in Barco at 453-8345.



Emergency Management

Volunteers will be utilized after a damaging hurricane or natural disaster to help the community recover. This may include vegetation and debris removal, minor repairs, water and food distribution sites, and transportation needs. Contact E.M. at 232-2115.

Currituck Jack



Visit the Historic Jarvisburg Colored School to see the new statue of "Currituck Jack".

John Jasper White was an enslaved mariner in Currituck County who became a Revolutionary War hero. Learn his story at the historic school and museum, which is located at 7302 Caratoke Hwy, Jarvisburg, NC 27947

Currituck Celebrates America 250

Currituck County celebrated the 250th anniversary of the United States of America with several special events. These included a July 4 fireworks show, the Betsy Dowdy Ride reenactment, educational films, lighthouse banners, and the unveiling of the "Currituck Jack" statue.



Youth Sports Registration

Registration for flag football is open until Sept. 21.

Registration for basketball is open until Nov. 12.

Find online registration at **CurrituckRecreation.com**

Contact Parks & Recreation at 232-3007.



To: Currituck County Residents
and Property Owners

Hurricane Season Brings Annual Need for Safety Preparation

Emergency Management staff have spent months preparing for hurricane season. You should take time to make sure you are ready too!

In May, staff joined partner agencies from North Carolina's coastal region for "The Voices in the Storm" symposium, held in New Hanover County. It focused on strengthening readiness, coordination, and communication for before, during, and after storms. Participants explored real-world lessons learned and practical strategies to help communities better prepare for and respond to severe weather.

Preparedness and response is a team effort. Families, businesses, neighborhoods, and community groups should work together. There are several actions you can take, such as:

- Updating emergency plans
- Refreshing supplies in emergency safety kits
- Mapping probable evacuation routes
- Monitoring weather systems and storm tracks
- Fine-tuning communication plans with family members, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

Contact Emergency Management at 232-2115 if you have questions about preparation. Also, follow Currituck Emergency Management on Facebook!



The National Weather Service provides excellent weather forecasts. Visit [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) to monitor approaching storms!

County Mourns Passing of Commissioner Etheridge

Commissioner J. Owen Etheridge, a devoted public servant and steadfast advocate for Currituck County, recently passed away at age 74. He served on the Board of Commissioners from 1994-2002, 2004-2012, and 2018-2026. Throughout his public service, Etheridge displayed a sincere commitment to preserving the values and character of Currituck County.



Etheridge was a strong advocate for protecting farmland, supporting the agricultural community, and promoting responsible growth that balanced progress with the preservation of the county's rural landscape. He was also very active in the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, where he worked alongside leaders from across the state to address issues affecting counties and rural communities. His contributions to the local community and Board of Commissioners will be greatly missed.

Currituck County Government

Board of Commissioners

- Paul O'Neal - Chairman, At-Large, 722-3526
- Selina Jarvis, Vice-Chair, District 2, 207-6994
- Tony Angell - District 1, 722-3487
- Mike Payment - District 3, 757-763-8110
- Janet Rose - District 4, 722-3524
- Kevin McCord - At Large, 455-7301
- District 5 - vacant at time of publishing

County Manager

- Rebecca L. Gay

Assistant County Manager

- Melissa J. Futrell

County Attorney

- Megan E. Morgan

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

- Leeann Walton

Email the Board of Commissioners at commissioners@currituckcountync.gov

Send general questions to contactus@currituckcountync.gov



Website
www.CurrituckCountyNC.gov

Facebook
[CurrituckCountyGovernment](https://www.facebook.com/CurrituckCountyGovernment)

Instagram
[CurrituckCountyGovernment](https://www.instagram.com/CurrituckCountyGovernment)

X (Twitter)
[CurrituckGov](https://twitter.com/CurrituckGov)

YouTube
[Currituckgovernment](https://www.youtube.com/Currituckgovernment)