



BRUNSWICK COUNTY FOCUS ON FINANCIALS

2025 POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

A Community Guide to Finances | Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

PREPARED IN COLLABORATION BY

BRUNSWICK COUNTY FINANCE & COMMUNICATIONS

BRUNSWICKCOUNTYNC.GOV/FINANCE



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNTY MANAGER

We are pleased to present Brunswick County's 2025 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). The PAFR is designed to provide a summary of the County's financial position in a way that is easy to read and understand. This report highlights important information from various sources, including the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), the Budget, and the Strategic Plan. It is our intention to keep our community members informed about County finances and the use of public funds, increase public support in local government goals and activities, and create more opportunities for collaboration between government and community members.

Last year, we submitted our first PAFR for review and received the 2024 PAFR award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

This year we are *Focused on Financials* with a lens on **Culture and Recreation**. We hope you enjoy learning more about your community and local county government.

We would love to get your input to help us plan our next PAFR. Be sure to submit your comments using our [online survey](#). See instructions on the back cover of this report. Thank you!



On The Cover:

The front cover features the Brunswick Nature Park overlooking the Town Creek tributary in unincorporated Brunswick County, North Carolina.

The back cover features the Margaret & James Harper, Jr. Library, a Brunswick County Library branch in Southport, North Carolina.

OUR COUNTY SEAL *Adopted March 2023*



Important Note About This Report:

Some of the data may not conform with all the ACFR requirements (known as GAAP or generally accepted accounting principles). If this is the case, the chart or discussion will be marked. Not all funds or component units are included here.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

In This Report You Will:

- **Discover your County Government.** Get insights directly from the County about what’s happening in the community.
- **Learn Quick Stats about the County.** See key information about Brunswick County and its local economy.
- **Receive a Financial Overview of Governmental Operations.** Learn about the main services the County provides, how the County’s finances are managed, and the plans for the future.

Want to Learn More?

Check out our Adopted Budgets and Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR) online at BrunswickCountyNC.gov/finance.



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Manager’s Message & On the Cover	1
About This Guide & Table of Contents	2
Commissioners, Districts, & Strategic Plan	3
Financial & Departmental Awards	4
About Brunswick County	5-6
County Statistics & Demographics	7
Local Economy	8
Revenue Governmental Activities	9
Expenditures Governmental Activities	10
Governmental Functions	11-16
Enterprise Funds	17-18
Enterprise Debt & Projects	19
Net Position	20
FY26 Budget Overview	21-22



FOCUS on Culture & Recreation
 Did you know that Culture and Recreation functions support and are supported by other functions of government, including General Government, Central Services, Human Services, and Education?

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

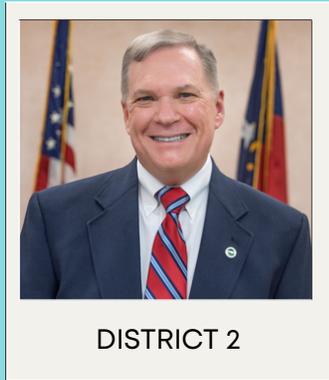
BRUNSWICK COUNTY OPERATES UNDER A **COUNCIL-MANAGER** FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Under this form of government, a Council (or Commission) of elected officials sets policy and delegates all administrative duties to the manager; these duties are set by state law.



DISTRICT 1

**COMMISSIONER
RANDY THOMPSON**



DISTRICT 2

**VICE CHAIRMAN
J. MARTIN COOKE**



DISTRICT 3

**COMMISSIONER
PATRICIA SYKES**



DISTRICT 4

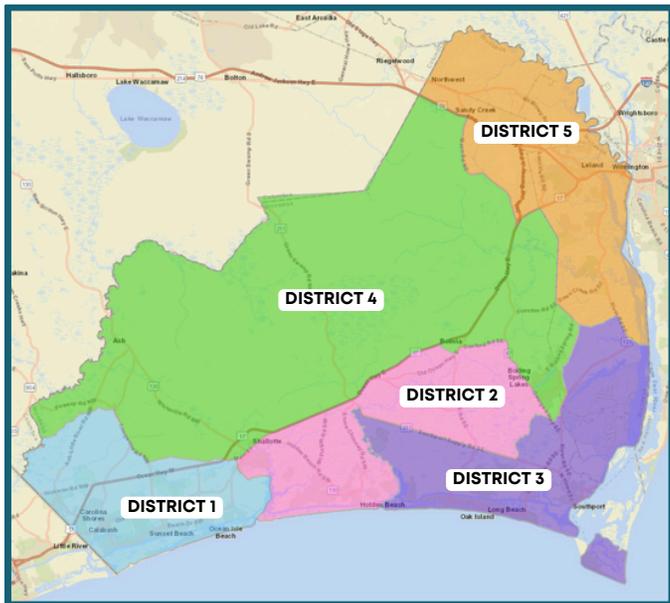
**CHAIRMAN
MIKE FORTE**



DISTRICT 5

**COMMISSIONER
FRANK WILLIAMS**

COUNTY DISTRICTS



OUR MISSION

We provide the highest level of service to support an active, dynamic, and thriving community. In cooperation with our local and regional partners, we collaborate to provide responsive and efficient services that support and advance the development of our community's educational, recreational, and economic prosperity.

OUR VISION

Brunswick County is a prosperous, vibrant, and forward-thinking community that offers opportunities to enhance and sustain the highest quality of life for residents.

OUR VALUES



RESPECT



INTEGRITY



COLLABORATION



ACCOUNTABILITY



INNOVATION

Check out our full Strategic Plan online at BrunswickCountyNC.gov/StrategicPlan.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY FINANCIAL AWARDS

Our Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Awards & Recognition

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (COA Award), the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (Budget Award), and the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award (PAFR Award) reflect the commitment of the governing body and Brunswick County staff to meet the highest principles of governmental financial reporting and budgeting.



TRIPLE CROWN WINNER



COA AWARD

23
Years



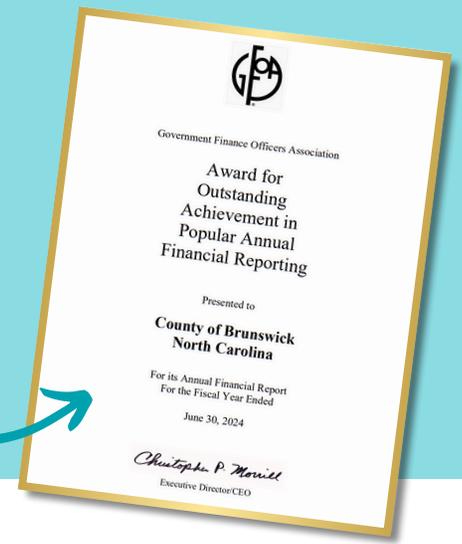
BUDGET AWARD

19
Years



PAFR AWARD

1
Year
(Our first PAFR!)



AWARD-WINNING DEPARTMENTS

Several of our County departments were recognized throughout the year for their innovative programs, service delivery or outstanding staff. A highlight of some of those awards include:

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- **Heroic Hands: Celebrating Public Service** from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC)

Public Utilities

- **Water Disaster Preparedness Award** from NC One Water
- **Large Water Distribution System of the Year Award** from NC One Water
- **Water Distribution Operator of the Year** from NC One Water
- **Utility of the Future Today Award** from Water Environment Federation (WEF)

Sheriff's Office (BCSO)

- Carousel Child Advocacy Center recognized BCSO as the first police force in the nation to become a **Darkness to Light Partner in Prevention**
- **2025 Tin Man Community Prevention Advocate** and **2025 Tin Man Community Professional** from Carousel Child Advocacy Center

Social Services

- **Child Support Services Certificate of Excellence** from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)
- The Department's Child Welfare team received a **Certificate of Recognition** from the North Carolina Psychiatry Access Line (NC-PAL) for engaging in the 2023-2024 NC-PAL Pediatric Psychiatry Collaborative for Child Welfare (PPC-CW) Pilot Program
- The Department's Adult Welfare team has received special recognition from the State in program performance areas, including Evaluation, Guardianship, Adult Protective Services, and Court Operations
- The State review of County In-Home services received special recognition from the State for the Federal Review of services
- **2025 Tin Man Community Professional** from Carousel Child Advocacy Center

View more awards online at BrunswickCountyNC.gov/awards.

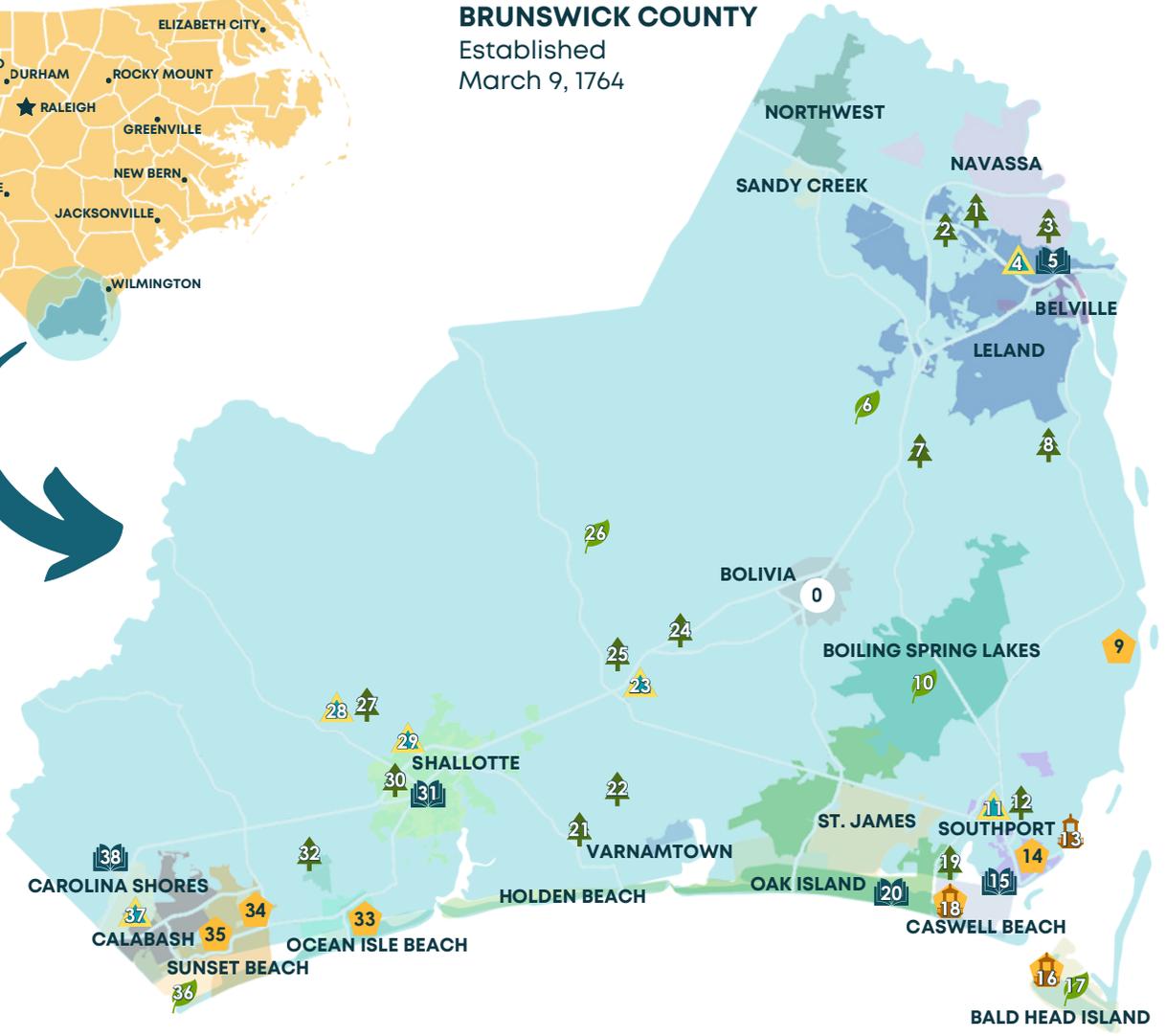
NORTH CAROLINA

Established
November 21, 1789



BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Established
March 9, 1764



Brunswick County
Points of Interest

- Public Library
- County Park / Recreational Facility
- Museum
- County Seat
- Lighthouse
- Nature Preserve
- Senior Center

County Quick Facts

175,047 Population*	No. 6 Largest NC County by Land Area	846 Square Miles	47 Miles of Ocean Front	19 Municipalities	2 Sanitary Districts
-------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------

Source: *NC Office of State Budget and Management - State Demographer Data (Projections by Race, Sex, and Age Groups)

ABOUT BRUNSWICK COUNTY

FOCUS on Culture

Did you know Brunswick County is home to 5 public libraries, 12 county parks, 10 museums, and 3 lighthouses?

OUR COUNTY'S KEY POINTS OF INTEREST

- 0** County Seat
- 1** Leland Community Park & Leland Community Building
- 2** Northwest District Park
- 3** Navassa Park
- 4** The Leland Center
- 5** Leland Library
- 6** Ev-Henwood Nature Preserve
- 7** Town Creek Park & Town Creek Park Community Building
- 8** Brunswick Nature Park
- 9** Brunswick Town / Fort Anderson
- 10** Boiling Spring Lakes Preserve
- 11** The Southport Center
- 12** Smithville District Park
- 13** Price's Creek Lighthouse
- 14** North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport
Old Brunswick County Jail Museum
St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Fort Johnston Southport Museum & Visitor Center
- 15** Margaret & James Harper, Jr. Library
- 16** Old Baldy Lighthouse & Smith Island Museum of History
- 17** Bald Head Island, Bald Head Woods Reserve
- 18** Oak Island Lighthouse
- 19** Dutchman Creek Park
- 20** G.V. Barbee, Sr. Library
- 21** Lockwood Folly Community Building
- 22** Cedar Grove Park
- 23** The Supply Center
- 24** Dinah E. Gore Sports & Aquatics Complex
- 25** Lockwood Folly District Park
- 26** Green Swamp Preserve
- 27** Waccamaw Park & Waccamaw Community Building
- 28** The Waccamaw Center
- 29** The Shallotte Center
- 30** Shallotte District Park
- 31** Rourk Library
- 32** Ocean Isle Beach Park
- 33** Museum of Coastal Carolina
- 34** Ingram Planetarium
- 35** Sunset Beach Swing Bridge & Museum
- 36** Bird Island Reserve
- 37** The Calabash Center
- 38** Southwest Brunswick Branch Library



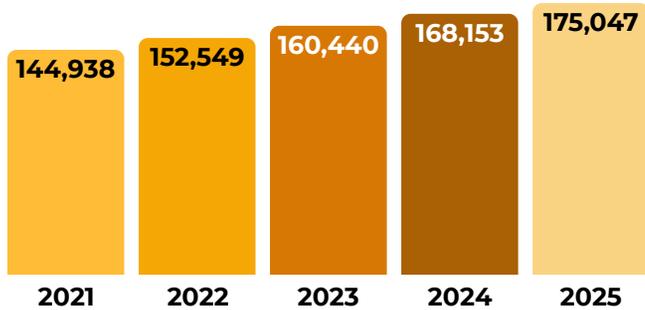
Learn more about these points of interest at ncbrunswick.com/things-to-do.

Explore resources and learn more about Brunswick County's history at BrunswickCountyNC.gov/history.

ABOUT BRUNSWICK COUNTY

POPULATION TREND

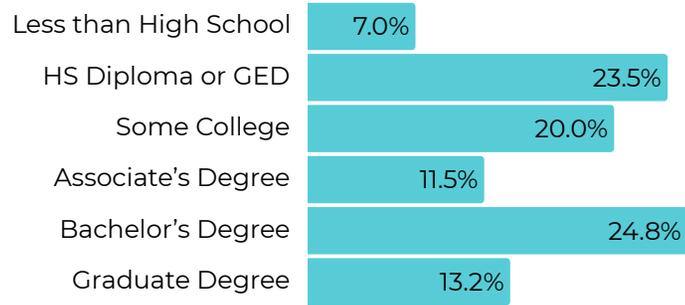
PROJECTIONS AS OF JAN. 2025



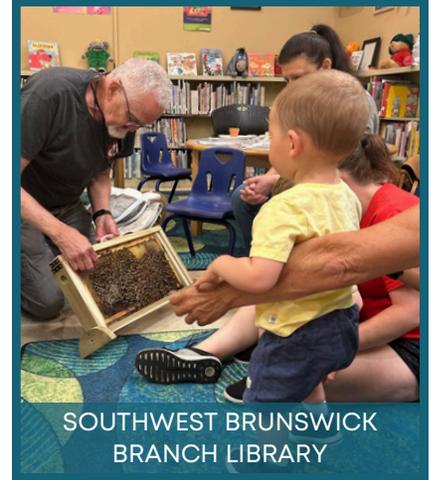
Source: *NC Office of State Budget and Management - State Demographer Data (Projections by Race, Sex, and Age Groups)*

EDUCATION (Population Age 25+)

2024 ESTIMATE

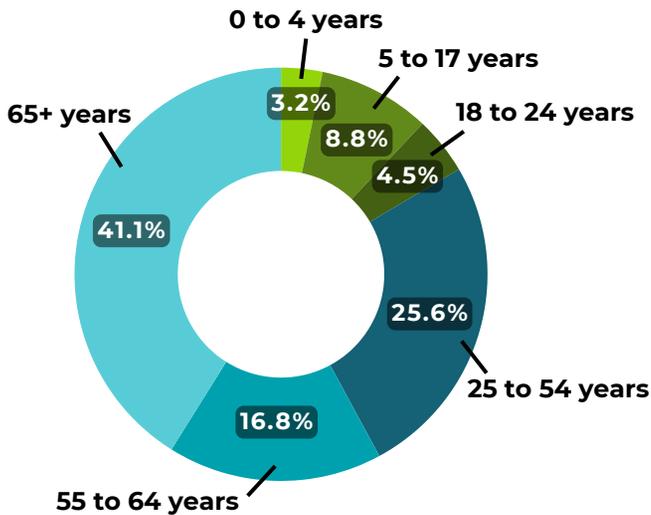


Source: *U.S. Census Bureau - 2024 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (S1501)*



POPULATION AGE

ESTIMATE AS OF JAN. 2025



Source: *NC Office of State Budget and Management - State Demographer Data (Projections by Race, Sex, and Age Groups)*

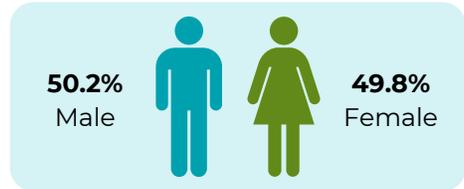
MEDIAN AGE

PROJECTIONS AS OF JAN. 2025



POPULATION BY SEX

PROJECTIONS AS OF JAN. 2025



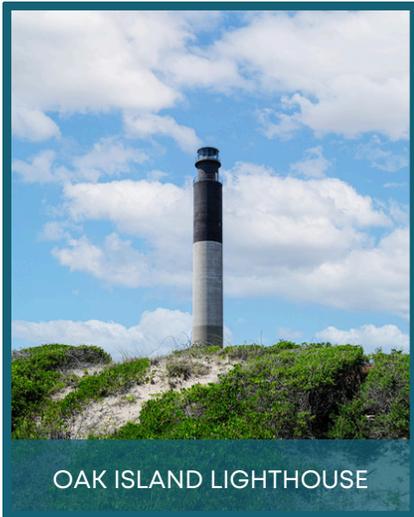
POPULATION BY RACE & Hispanic Ethnicity

PROJECTIONS AS OF JAN. 2025



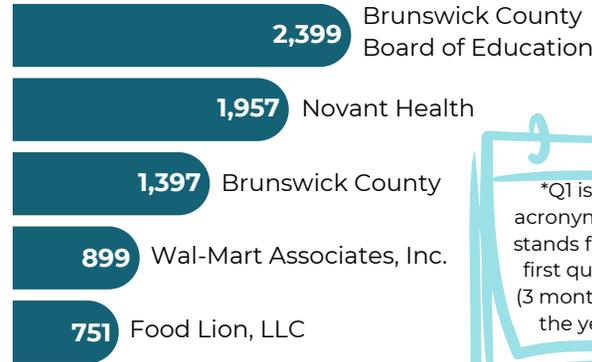
White (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	Non-Hispanic Others
82.0%	5.5%	12.5%

Source: *NC Office of State Budget and Management - State Demographer Data (Projections by Hispanic Origin and Race)*



TOP 5 EMPLOYERS

APPROXIMATE EMPLOYEES AS OF 2025 Q1*



*Q1 is an acronym that stands for the first quarter (3 months) of the year.

Source: [NC Division of Employment Security](#) & [Brunswick County Finance](#)

TOP 5 TAXPAYERS

ASSESSED VALUE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024

\$1,828,164,327	Duke Energy
\$234,349,123	Brunswick Electric Membership Corp.
\$138,612,281	Archer Daniels Midland Co.
\$72,244,152	Evergreen Timber, LLC
\$71,387,719	Latitude Harrington Apartments, LLC

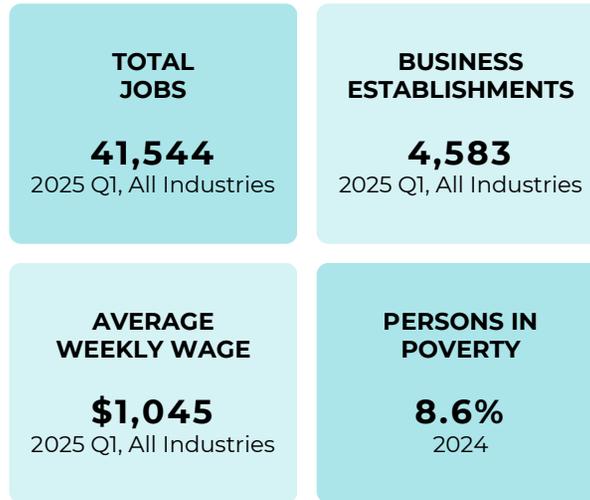
Source: [Brunswick County Tax Office](#)

LABOR FORCE



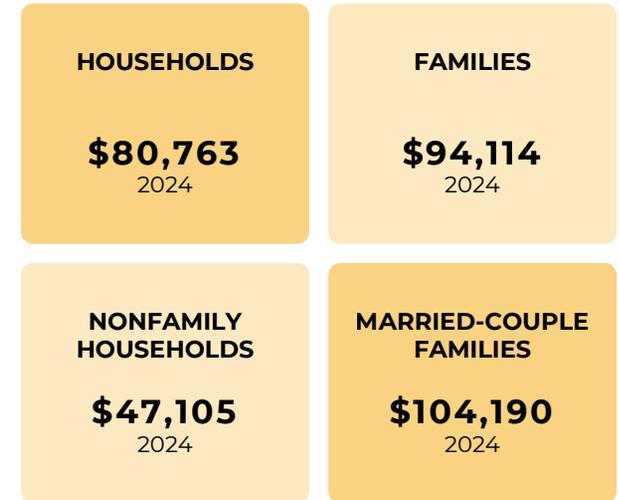
Source: [NC Department of Commerce - Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#)

JOBS



Sources: [NC Department of Commerce - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) & [U.S. Census Bureau - 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates \(S1701\)](#)

MEDIAN INCOME



Source: [U.S. Census Bureau - 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates \(S1901\)](#)



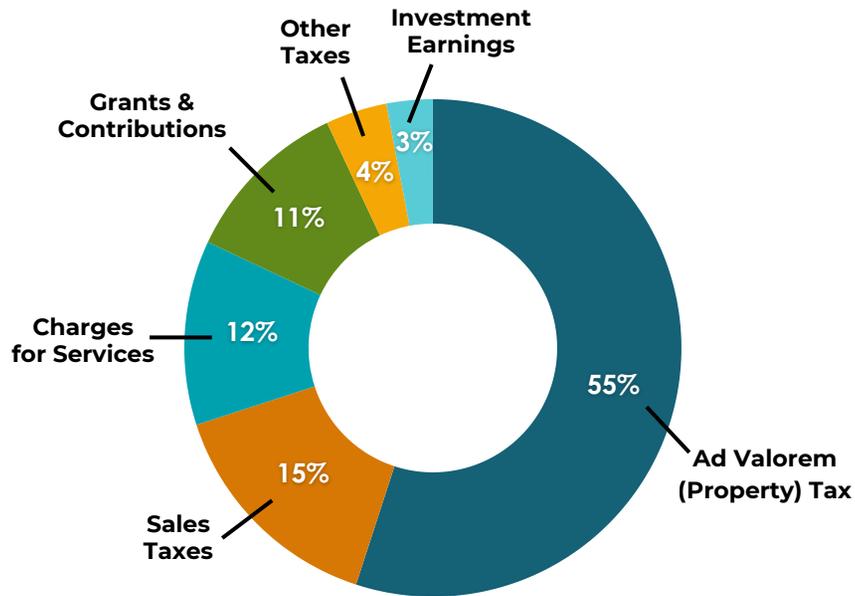
FOCUS on the Economy

Did you know your Library card gives you access to NC LIVE, which offers tools for academic skills, job searching, company research, investment advice, and career development?

LOCAL ECONOMY

GOVERNMENTAL REVENUES BY SOURCE

\$330.1 MILLION TOTAL | FISCAL YEAR 2025



Definitions

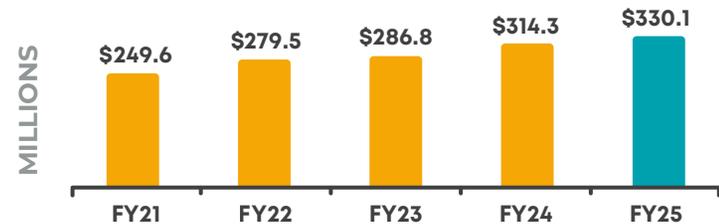
Governmental Activities are those that are supported primarily by taxes and revenues from other governments.

Charges for Services include permits and fees; examples are inspections, solid waste, public health, collection fees, recreation services, and others.

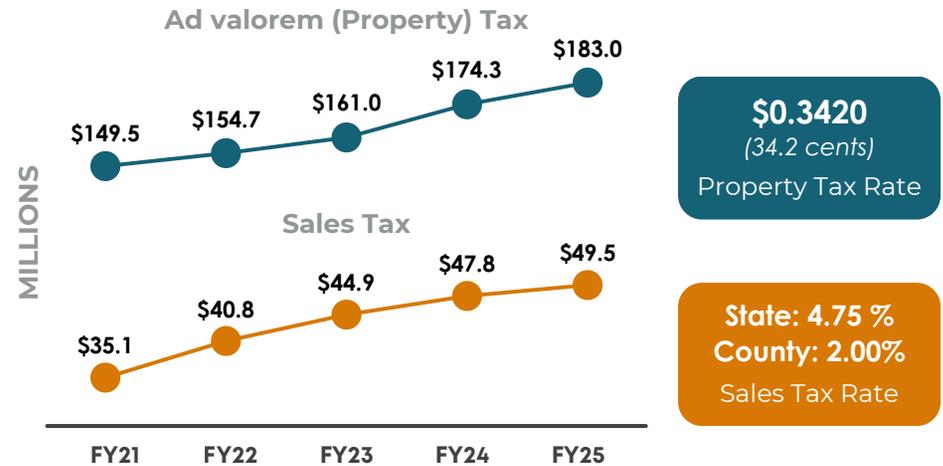
Grants are primarily contributions by one organization to another. Most grants come to Brunswick County from State and Federal sources. Grants are usually made for a specific purpose.

REVENUE TRENDS

Revenues in FY 2025 increased by \$15.8 million (5%) compared to FY 2024. The largest increases were related to Ad Valorem tax collections of \$8.7 million and Local Option Sales Tax of \$1.7 million due to growth in the County, and an increase in Charges for Services of \$3.3 million due to the higher demand for services.



PROPERTY & SALES TAX TRENDS



See [2025 ACFR Exhibit B \(p. 16-17\)](#) and [Table 2 \(p. 151-154\)](#) for more information.

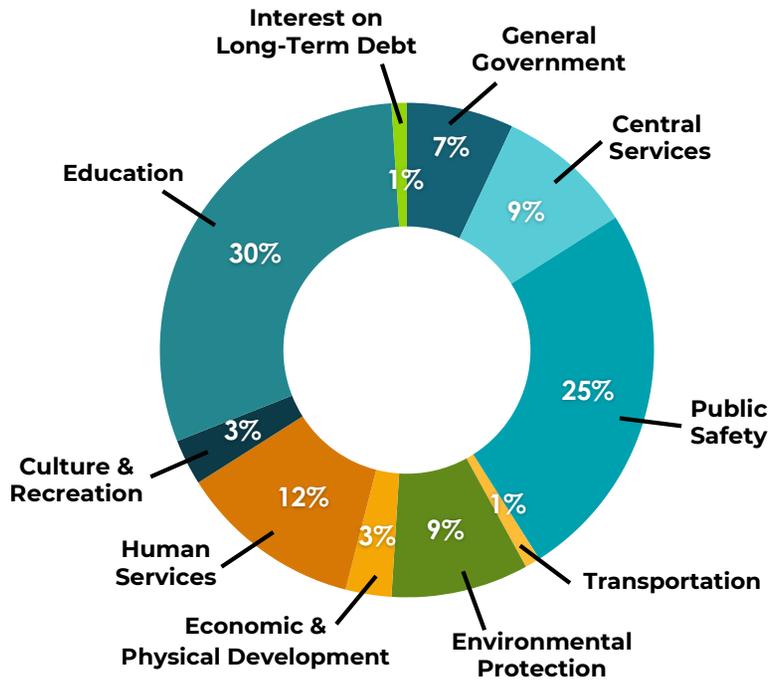
GOVERNMENTAL EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION

\$311.9 MILLION TOTAL | FISCAL YEAR 2025



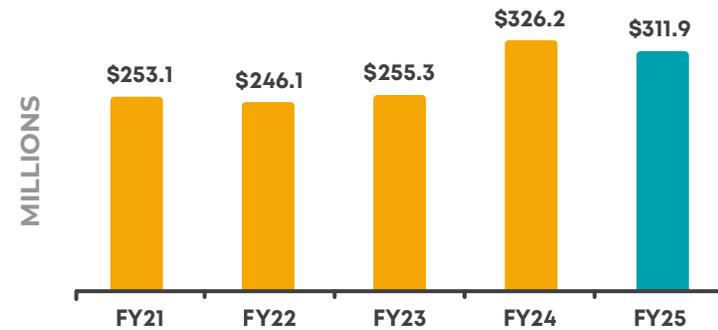
FOCUS on Expenditures

Did you know that in FY 2025, over \$1.5 million was used to make improvements to our parks?



EXPENDITURE TRENDS

Expenditures in FY 2025 decreased by \$14.3 million (4.4%) compared to FY 2024. The largest decrease was related to a one-time purchase of land for \$19 million for economic development purposes in FY24.



See [2025 ACFR Exhibit B \(p. 16-17\)](#) and [Table 2 \(p. 151-154\)](#) for more information.

BREAKING DOWN EXPENDITURES

Here is how every **\$1 of property tax** is distributed across these functions.



EXPENDITURES | GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: County Manager's Office, Tax Office, Communications, Finance, Human Resources, County Attorney's Office, Court, Elections, Register of Deeds

Highlights

- 114 Full-Time Equivalent Positions
- 139,004 registered voters in Brunswick County
- **Operating Project:** The County's new strategic planning dashboard, powered by Envisio, is expected to be publicly accessible in FY26. The dashboard aims to provide the Commissioners and the public with a centralized and transparent way to see regular updates on staff's tactics, projects, and other customer service measures connected to the Brunswick County Strategic Plan.
- Property tax collection rate of over 99% the past five years
- 85 people attended the Brunswick County Job Fair

\$0.030
per \$1 of
property tax

CENTRAL SERVICES

Departments: Information Technology (IT), Engineering, Operation Services, Fleet Services



Highlights

- 114 Full-Time Equivalent Positions
- Fleet Services maintains 1,912 vehicles and heavy equipment
- Operation Services' Vector Control Division controls mosquito populations by spraying breeding areas and educating communities. They successfully completed an aerial mosquito control project for Potential Tropical Cyclone (PTC) #8 in 2024.
- **Operating Project:** IT implemented an audio/video upgrade solution for the Commissioners' Chambers to support physical and virtual meetings.
- IT installed fiber optic cabling and new internet connectivity at Smithville Park

\$0.115
per \$1 of
property tax



TRANSPORTATION

Departments: Cape Fear Regional Jetport, Odell Williamson Municipal Airport, Brunswick Transportation System

Highlights

- The County accepts NCDOT grants and passes them through to the Cape Fear Regional Jetport and a Rural Operation Assistance Grant passed to Brunswick Transportation System.

\$0.001
per \$1 of
property tax

GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS



FOCUS on Functions

Did you know functions of a government are groups of related activities?



PUBLIC SAFETY

Departments: District Attorney's Office, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Community Paramedicine, Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office, Detention Center, Animal Protective Services, Permitting & Inspections

Highlights

- 558 Full-Time Equivalent Positions
- Sheriff's Office maintained 60 Deputy Patrol Units (4 patrol squads with 15 deputies each)
- EMS provided 11,450 clinical education hours to students
- EMS was granted certification by the North Carolina Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Services, Inc. in the following areas:
 - Confined Space Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Medium Rescue Provider, Water Rescue-Surface Water Rescue, Water Rescue-Swiftwater Rescue, and Ambulance EMS Provider
- Community Paramedicine, with EMS and Health Services, used Opioid Settlement Funds to provide post-overdose response and resources .
- Emergency Management hosted its second annual ReadyBrunswick Preparedness Expo.
- **Capital Improvement Project:** An Animal Protective Services project for a new Adoption Center is in the design phase.
- **Capital Improvement Project:** A new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is in the Construction Document Preparation phase. Learn more about the project in the Human Services section of this document.

\$0.206
per \$1 of
property tax



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Departments: Solid Waste & Recycling, Environmental Protection Agencies

Highlights

- 9 Full-Time Equivalent Positions
- 14.4% of waste is recycled
- **Capital Improvement Project:** The current Construction & Demolition (C&D) Landfill is expected to reach its capacity in the next few years. There are state regulations and requirements on closing a landfill. A new transfer station has been completed and as much as possible of the incoming C&D waste is being transferred instead of landfilled so that the remaining landfill space can be reserved for future disaster debris needs.
- Continued partnership with the NC Forest Service

\$0.084
per \$1 of
property tax



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Cooperative Extension, Brunswick Business Industry & Development, Planning & Community Enforcement, Soil & Water, Public Housing

Highlights

- 30 Full-Time Equivalent Positions
- The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program assists an average 310 households per month.
- Brunswick County Public Housing Authority (BCPHA) hosted 2 Habitat for Humanity events and 2 voucher holders qualified for Habitat Homes.
- Cooperative Extension is a partnership with NC State University.
- In fall 2024, Cooperative Extension agents piloted a Junior Master Gardener program with middle schoolers at Cedar Grove Middle School.
- Epsilon Advanced Materials is preparing to build \$650 million graphite anode facility in Brunswick County.
- US MgO is preparing to build a 75,000-square foot facility in Brunswick County that will manufacture high-quality magnesium oxide (MgO) cement sheathing panels for construction industries in North America.
- **Operating Project:** The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) is in the process of being rewritten. The rewrite considers current, requested, and alternatives to the existing UDO, provides opportunities and constraints, and looks for direction from the County Board of Commissioners and Planning staff.

\$0.017
per \$1 of
property tax

HUMAN SERVICES

Departments: Health Services, Social Services, Veterans Services, Health Services Agencies



Highlights

- 291 Full-Time Equivalent Positions
- 14,598 veterans live in Brunswick County.
- 6 senior centers operated by Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc. (BSRI).
- An average of 15-18 children are adopted from foster care per year.
- **Capital Improvement Project:** A new Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Emergency Operations Center (EOC) building is in the Construction Document Preparation phase. Departments that will be relocated to the building include Health Services, Public Housing, Veterans Services, Social Services, and Emergency Management.
- **Capital Improvement Project:** Construction of the Ash-Waccamaw Multiuse Building has been completed. The building primarily houses BSRI, with offices for Brunswick County EMS and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office.
- **Grant:** As of June 30, 2025, the County has authorized high-impact Opioid Abatement projects using funds from the [National Opioid Settlement \(finalized in 2022\)](#), including:
 - Collaborative Strategic Planning, Recovery Support Services, Recovery Housing Support, Early Intervention, Naloxone Distribution, and Post-Overdose Response Team

\$0.084
per \$1 of
property tax

GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS



EDUCATION

Departments: Brunswick County Schools, Brunswick Community College

Highlights

- 20 public schools with 13,508 students
- 2 charter schools with 1,651 students
- 1 community college with 7,839 students
- The County provides grant funds for Brunswick County students to attend Brunswick Community College (Brunswick Guarantee Program)
- The County has a long-standing funding agreement with the Brunswick County Board of Education that was recently extended through June 30, 2029. The terms of the agreement require that the County provides 36.5% of the ad valorem tax revenue to the schools for operating expenditures less the portion of the tax rate dedicated to paying Brunswick County Schools' debt service.

TYPES OF DEBT FOR SCHOOL PROJECTS

As the local taxing authority, a county will issue debt for school construction and renovation projects. The school facility reverts to the school board's ownership while the debt remains with the county.

Brunswick County borrows money to help fund large projects through the issuance of **bonds**. The County repays the bonds over a period of time, helping share the cost with both current and future taxpayers or rate payers, depending on the type of bond.

Definitions

General Obligation (GO) Bonds: Debt guaranteed by the full faith and taxing ability of the County. Requires voter approval.

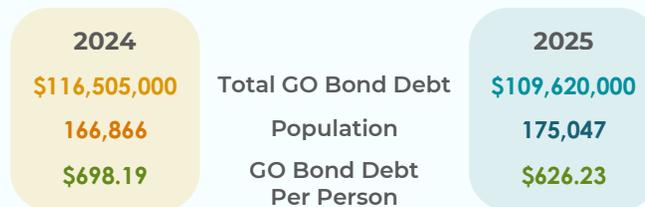
Limited Obligation Bonds (LOBs): Debt guaranteed by the asset being borrowed against.

OUTSTANDING DEBT

AS OF JUNE 30 (IN MILLIONS)



BREAKING DOWN GO BONDS (CALCULATIONS)



BOND RATINGS

Much like a **credit score**, the County is assigned a **bond rating** that is used to determine the amount of interest it pays on the money it borrows. Generally, the higher the bond rating, the less risk investors assume, resulting in more favorable interest rates and lower costs of financing.

The two main bond rating agencies are **Moody's** and **Standard & Poor's (S&P Global)**. Brunswick County has **excellent** ratings from these agencies. Moody's ratings are Aaa for GO bonds, Aa1 for LOBs, and Aa2 for revenue bonds. S & P Global's ratings are AAA for GO bonds, AA+ for LOBs, and AA for revenue bonds.

Refer to the [2025 ACFR Note 7 \(p. 55-64\)](#) for all Long-term Obligation details.





FOCUS on Culture & Recreation

DEPARTMENT: LIBRARY

\$0.008
per \$1 of
property tax

Mission

[Brunswick County Library](#) provides materials, services, and programs to support the informational, cultural, recreational and lifelong learning interests of the community.

Highlights

5 Library Branches	42,232 Library Cardholders	30 Full-Time Equivalent Positions	426,000 Library Materials in Circulation
------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------



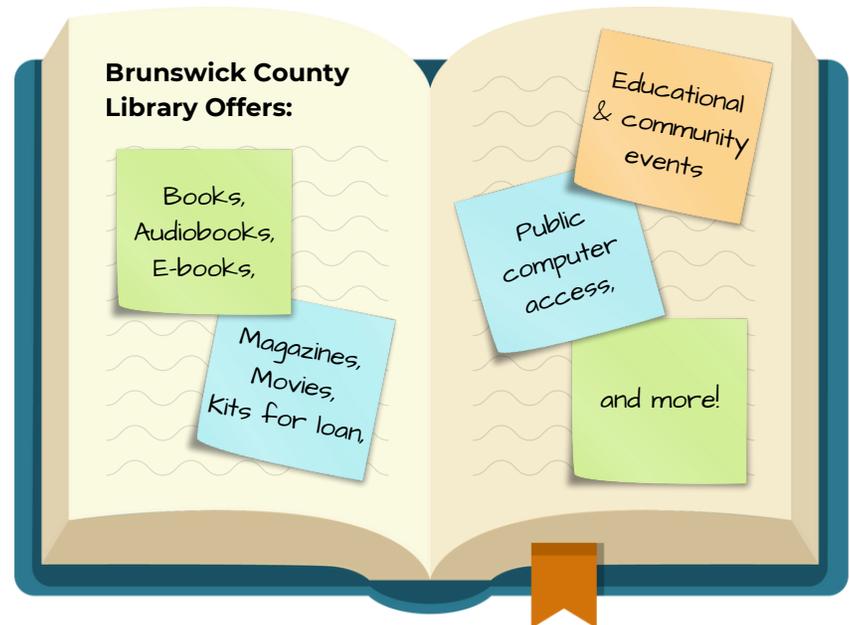
Operating Project: Bookmobile

The Brunswick County Library's custom bookmobile will be delivered and begin serving underserved patrons within the county during Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. Bookmobile staffing, workspace, service model, and more were planned in FY 2025.



Operating Project: NC Cardinal

Brunswick County is one of 56 library systems that are part of [NC Cardinal](#), a program of the State Library of North Carolina. The NC Cardinal program offers 8.1 million catalog items and resources to participating North Carolina public libraries and their patrons. The program also provides cost savings to participating libraries.





FOCUS on Culture & Recreation

DEPARTMENT: PARKS & RECREATION

\$0.018
per \$1 of
property tax

Mission

[Brunswick County Parks & Recreation](#) strives to promote quality of life for all by offering safe parks and facilities, creative recreational programs, quality community relations, while fostering a keen stewardship towards the natural environment.

Highlights

12 County Parks	4 Community Buildings	32 Full-Time Equivalent Positions	2,400+ Participants in Youth Recreation	350+ Participants in Adult Recreation
---------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------



BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION TEAM AT SMITHVILLE PARK



Capital Improvement Project: Smithville Park Improvement

Phase Three was completed during the fiscal year, which included improvements to the following:

- Turf improvements with irrigation and sport field lighting for the existing soccer field
- Turf improvements with irrigation for the existing baseball field
- Trail and sidewalks
- Picnic shelter
- Fencing and improvements to the existing parking lot
- Press boxes



Capital Improvement Project: Park Renovations

Park renovations were identified in the 10-year land use plan that was approved in February 2023. Lockwood Folly Park, one of the County's oldest parks, is the first planned park renovation.

Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan

The [Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan](#) provides guidance to assist County leadership with decision-making through 2032.

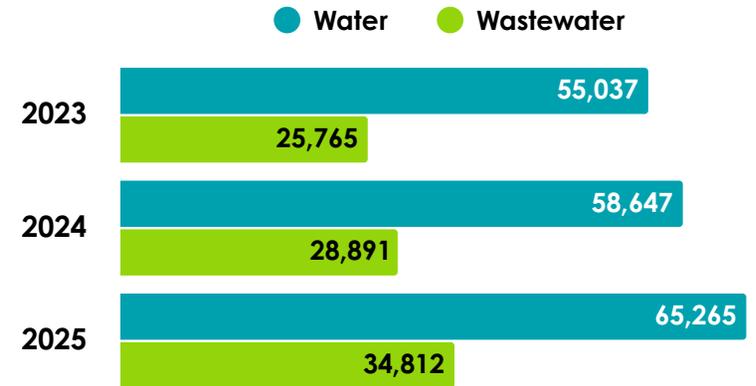
- The Master Plan emphasizes practical and more desirable improvements to the existing recreation system, including parks and recreational facilities.
- The Master Plan is action-oriented and designed to enhance recreational opportunities in the community.

ABOUT OUR UTILITY SYSTEMS

Brunswick County Public Utilities is the largest water and wastewater provider within the county, operating two water treatment plants and six wastewater treatment plants. Several expansion projects are under way or planned at most plants to accommodate future growth. The County’s water system provides water to an estimated 300,000 people or more per day during the peak tourism season.

The County provides water to retail (residential) customers within Boiling Spring Lakes, Bolivia, Calabash, Carolina Shores, Caswell Beach, Navassa, Northwest, Shallotte, Southport, St. James, Sunset Beach, Varnamtown, and Sandy Creek. The County also provides water to our wholesale municipal customers in Bald Head Island, Holden Beach, Oak Island, and Ocean Isle Beach.

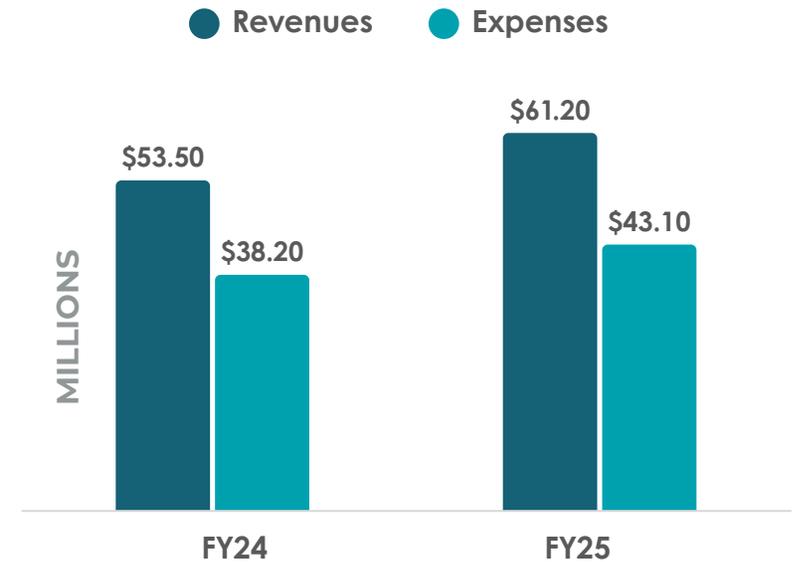
NUMBER OF RETAIL UTILITY CUSTOMERS AS OF JUNE 30



WATER OPERATING FUND

IN MILLIONS	FY24	FY25	Increase %
REVENUES			
Operating	\$49.5	\$56.4	14.0%
Non-operating	4.0	4.8	19.8%
Total Revenues	53.5	61.2	14.5%
EXPENSES			
Operating	31.4	36.5	16.3%
Non-operating	6.8	6.6	-3.7%
Total Expenses	38.2	43.1	12.7%
Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	\$15.3	\$18.1	18.3%

See [2025 ACFR Exhibit G \(p. 24\)](#) for more information.

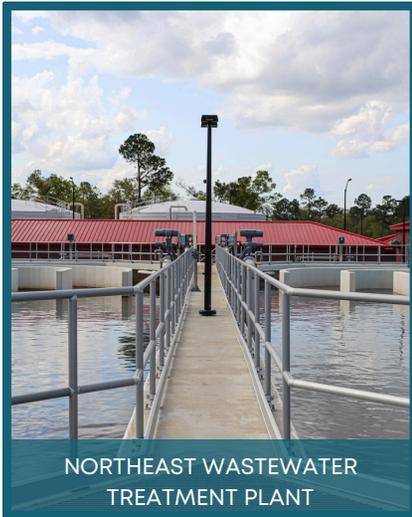


ENTERPRISE FUNDS



FOCUS on Enterprise Funds

Did you know Enterprise revenues cannot support Governmental Functions, such as Culture and Recreation?



TYPICAL MONTHLY UTILITY BILL

Water Based on 4,500 gallons

Base Charge: **\$16.00**

Usage (per 1,000 gallons): **\$4.15**

$$\begin{array}{r}
 16.00 \\
 + 18.68 \\
 \hline
 \text{WATER } \$34.68
 \end{array}$$

Wastewater Based on 4,500 gallons

Base Charge (includes first 3,000 gallons): **\$39.00**

Usage (per 1,000 gallons after first 3,000 gallons): **\$6.50**

$$\begin{array}{r}
 39.00 \\
 + 9.75 \\
 \hline
 \text{WASTEWATER } \$48.75
 \end{array}$$

Bill Total **\$83.43**

Definitions

Operating Revenues & Expenses are used in day-to-day activities.

- **Operating Revenue Examples:** Usage charges, Taps & Connections, Service Charges
- **Operating Expense Examples:** Salaries, Repairs & Maintenance, Supplies, Utilities

Non-operating Revenues & Expenses are those not directly related to service activities.

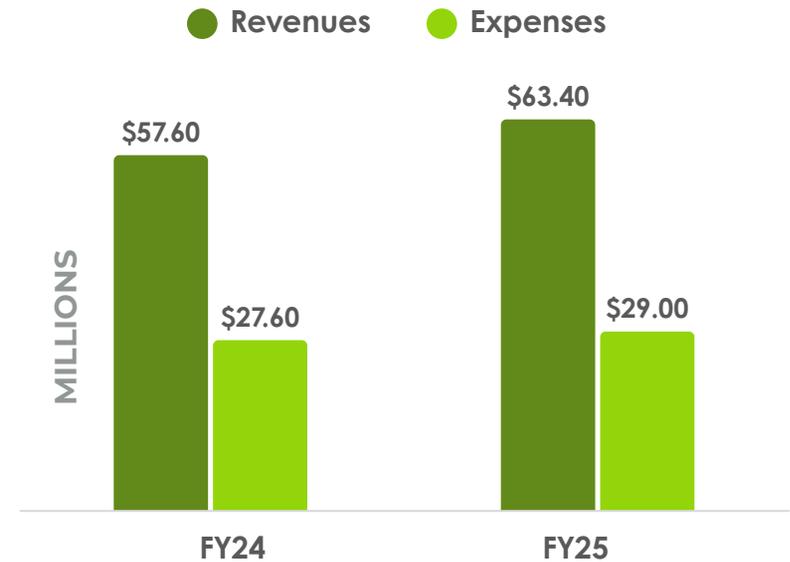
- **Non-operating Revenue Examples:** Investment Earnings, Gain or Loss on Sales of Capital Assets
- **Non-operating Expense Examples:** Interest on Debt, Claims Settlements



WASTEWATER OPERATING FUND

IN MILLIONS	FY24	FY25	Increase %
REVENUES			
Operating	\$54.5	\$60.5	11.2%
Non-operating	3.1	2.9	-5.0%
Total Revenues	57.6	63.4	10.3%
EXPENSES			
Operating	23.6	24.8	5.1%
Non-operating	4.0	4.2	5.3%
Total Expenses	27.6	29.0	5.1%
Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	\$30.0	\$34.4	14.7%

See [2025 ACFR Exhibit G \(p. 24\)](#) for more information.



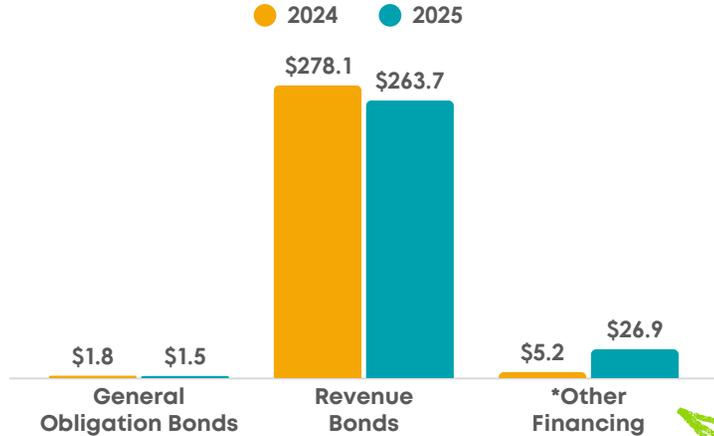
ENTERPRISE FUND DEBT SERVICE

Debt financing for enterprise (also known as business-type) projects allows the cost to be spread across multiple years, ensuring both current and future water/wastewater customers share the costs and enjoy the benefits of the facilities.

Business-Type Activities (IN MILLIONS)	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2025
Revenue Bonds	\$ 278.1	\$ 263.7
Bond Premiums	25.2	23.1
General Obligation Bonds	1.8	1.5
Installment Debt	0.7	0.6
State Revolving Fund Loans	4.5	26.3
Total	\$ 310.3	\$ 315.2

OUTSTANDING DEBT

AS OF JUNE 30 (IN MILLIONS)



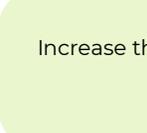
*Does not include premiums or other types of long-term obligations. Refer to the 2025 ACFR Note 7 for all Long-term Obligation details (p. 55-64).

ENTERPRISE PROJECTS



Northwest Water Treatment Plant Expansion & Reverse Osmosis Project
Install a low-pressure reverse osmosis (RO) treatment system to remove contaminants like PFAS and expand capacity to 36 million gallons per day (MGD) of RO-treated water.

Funding Sources: Revenue Bonds



Mulberry Branch Reclamation Plant Expansion
Increase the Shallotte Wastewater Plant's capacity to accept 0.75 MGD of sewage flow from Southport into the West Brunswick Regional Wastewater System.

Funding Sources: State Revolving Loan Funds and Revenue Bonds



West Brunswick Regional Water Reclamation Facility Expansion
Expand capacity by 3 MGD to a total capacity of 9 MGD to meet anticipated future wastewater treatment needs of the regional partnership.

Funding Sources: Revenue Bonds



Northeast Brunswick Regional Water Reclamation Facility Expansion
Expand capacity by 3.75 MGD to a rated capacity of 8.725 MGD to meet future wastewater treatment needs in the northern part of the county.

Funding Sources: Revenue Bonds (County & Partner Funded)



Shallotte Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion
Expand capacity by 1.5 MGD to a total capacity of 2.75 MGD to handle the total wastewater flow for the southern portion of the county.

Funding Sources: Revenue Bonds



Ocean Isle Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion
Expand capacity by 2 MGD to a total capacity of 3 MGD to meet anticipated future wastewater treatment needs.

Funding Sources: Capital Reserves and Revenue Bonds

Definitions

Revenue Bonds: Debt payable from specific non-tax revenues, such as water and wastewater fees.

Other Financing: Includes installment loans and State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans.

ENTERPRISE DEBT & PROJECTS

NET POSITION

Net Position (net worth) is a useful indicator of the County's overall financial health. Net position represents the difference between what the County owns (assets plus deferred outflows) and owes (liabilities plus deferred inflows).

The Condensed Statement of Net Position, or balance sheet, is a summary of the County's assets/deferred outflows and liabilities/deferred inflows. By the end of **fiscal year (FY) 2025**, the County's net position had increased by **\$97.9 million**, or **15%**, when compared to the prior FY, net of a "Change in Accounting Principle" restatement of \$3.5 million. The details of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) restatement can be found on [page 90 of the 2025 ACFR](#).

Governmental net position increased due to increases in tax collections and charges for services, along with controlled spending, and principal debt retirements associated with education facilities for which the County does not own the underlying assets. Business-type activities increased the County's net position by \$80.6 million due to customer growth, including the prior year's merger with the City of Southport's utility system, as well as from capital contributions and the completion of capital projects.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

AS OF JUNE 30 (IN MILLIONS)

	Governmental	Business-type	Total	
	2025	2025	2025	2024
NET POSITION				
Assets and Deferred Outflows	\$ 553.3	\$ 1,005.2	\$ 1,558.5	\$ 1,465.1
– Liabilities and Deferred Inflows	416.0	377.6	793.6	794.6
= Net Position	\$ 137.3	\$ 627.6	\$ 764.9	\$ 670.5
COMPONENTS OF NET POSITION				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 144.0	\$ 469.3	\$ 613.3	\$ 569.0
+ Restricted	31.4	-	31.4	27.7
+ Unrestricted	(38.1)	158.3	120.2	73.8
= Total Net Position	\$ 137.3	\$ 627.6	\$ 764.9	\$ 670.5
CHANGE IN NET POSITION				
Revenues	\$ 330.1	\$ 151.0	\$ 481.1	\$ 482.2
– Expenses	311.9	71.3	383.2	392.0
+/- Transfers	(0.9)	0.9	-	-
= Changes in Net Position	17.3	80.6	97.9	90.2
Net Position – Beginning	123.1	547.4	670.5	562.5
+/- Restatement	(3.1)	(0.4)	(3.5)	17.8
= Net Position – Ending	\$ 137.3	\$ 627.6	\$ 764.9	\$ 670.5

Definitions

Assets: Something the County owns that has monetary value, such as cash, property, or money the County is due to receive.

Liabilities: Something the County owes such as loans, future pension payments, bonds, etc.

Deferred Outflows of Resources: When consumption of assets must be reported in a future period.

Deferred Inflows of Resources: When acquiring an asset must be reported in a future period.

Net Investment in Capital Assets: The County's investment in capital assets (land, buildings, equipment, etc.) less any debt used to acquire the asset.

Restricted: Amounts that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used.

Unrestricted: The remaining net position available to use for operations.

See [2025 ACFR MD&A Figure 2 \(p.8\) & Exhibit A \(pg.15\)](#) for more details on Net Position and its components. See [2025 ACFR MD&A Figure 3 \(p.9\) & Exhibit B \(pg.16\)](#) for more details on the Change in Net Position.

NET POSITION

LOOKING FORWARD TO FISCAL YEAR 2026

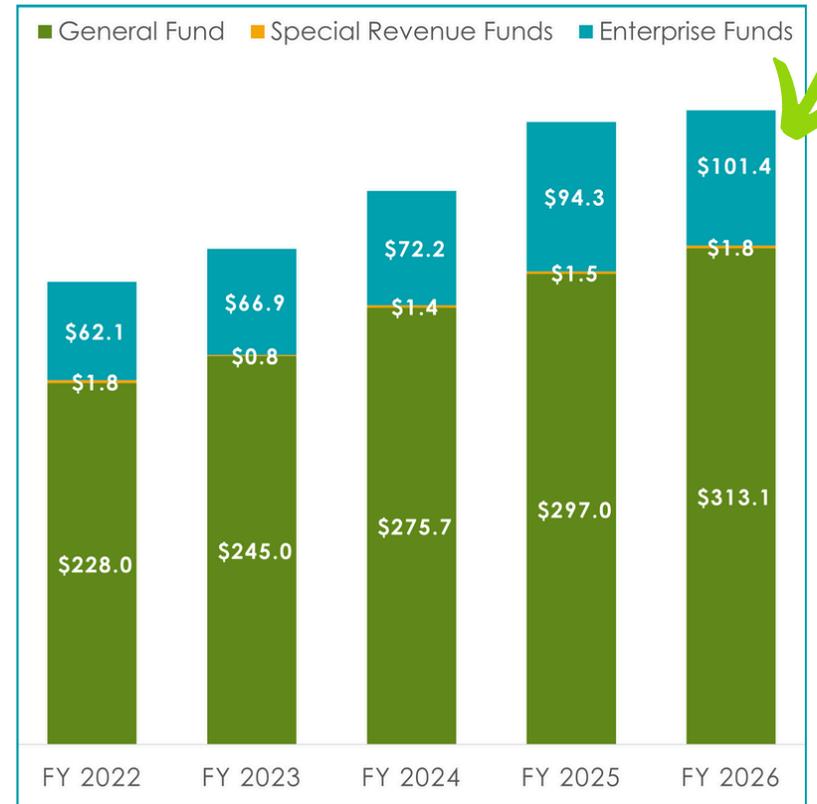
Each year, the County Manager creates a recommended balanced budget which must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The budget details how money will be spent on government operations, services, and capital projects. All collected revenue must be spent according to the County's budget.

FY 2026
Total Budget
\$416.3 million

BUDGET AND GOALS PROCESS

DECEMBER 2024	Assess needs, engage staff, gather information to prepare budget requests and develop unit goals.
JANUARY 2025	Annual County Commissioners' Goal Retreat to guide staff in budget and goals development.
FEBRUARY – APRIL 2025	Leadership and staff review goals, budget requests, and collaborate to develop Manager's budget recommendation.
APRIL 2025	Manager develops a draft budget recommendation and presents to the Board of Commissioners at the Budget Workshop.
MAY 19, 2025	Manager presents the budget recommendation to the Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting.
JUNE 2, 2025	Board of Commissioners meets for a Budget Workshop and holds a public hearing regarding the budget.
JUNE 16, 2025	Board of Commissioners meets for a regular meeting and considers adoption of the Budget Ordinance, Capital Improvement Plan, and Fees for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

BUDGET BY FUND TYPE (IN MILLIONS)



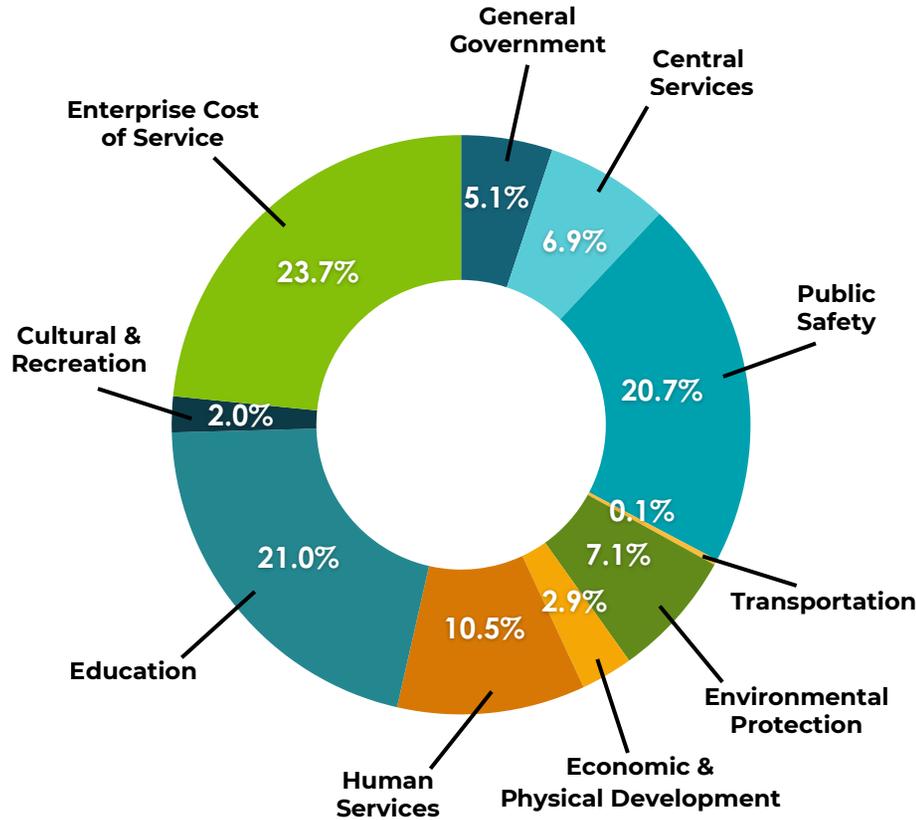
FY 2026 BUDGET OVERVIEW

FOCUS on Budget

Did you know the FY26 budget includes two additional library assistants to better serve the community? One each at Barbee in Oak Island and Harper in Southport.

OPERATING BUDGET

FISCAL YEAR 2026 | COUNTY-WIDE



See *Brunswick County Budget Document for details of Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.*

COUNTY-WIDE EXPENDITURES (LESS TRANSFERS)

General Fund Budget	FY 2026 Approved (in millions)	FY 2025 Approved (in millions)	% Change From Prior Year
General Government	\$ 20.2	\$ 19.3	4.7%
Central Services	27.5	27.1	1.5%
Public Safety	82.1	77.0	6.6%
Transportation	0.2	0.2	0.0%
Environmental Protection	28.2	26.4	6.8%
Economic Development	11.6	10.8	7.4%
Human Services	41.7	42.7	-2.3%
Education	83.1	78.0	6.5%
Culture & Recreation	7.9	6.9	14.5%
Enterprise Cost of Service	94.2	85.5	10.2%
Total Expenditures	\$ 396.7	\$ 373.9	

COUNTY-WIDE TRANSFERS TO PROJECTS

Net Transfer to School Projects	\$ 10.8	\$ 10.1	6.9%
Net Transfer to County Projects	\$ 1.6	\$ -0.8	-300.0%
Net Transfers to Enterprise Projects	\$ 7.2	\$ 8.8	-18.2%
Budget Total	\$ 416.3	\$ 392.0	



FOCUS on Budget

Did you know that Parks & Recreation has programs budgeted for Youth, Adult, Seniors, and other Special Populations?

FY26 BUDGET OVERVIEW



BRUNSWICK COUNTY FOCUS ON FINANCIALS

2025 POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

A Community Guide to Finances | Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

BRUNSWICK COUNTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT

30 GOVERNMENT CENTER DRIVE NE
BOLIVIA, NC 28422

910.253.2070 BrunswickCountyNC.gov

finance@brunswickcountync.gov

[BrunswickCountyNC.gov/social](https://www.BrunswickCountyNC.gov/social)

We want to hear from you! Take our quick survey to let us know what you think about the 2025 PAFR.

Scan the QR code
with your phone
camera or visit



www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025-PAFR-BrunswickCountyNC

