

CIVICS

GOVERNMENT

101



DEMOCRATIC POLITICS

Wilson County Democratic Party

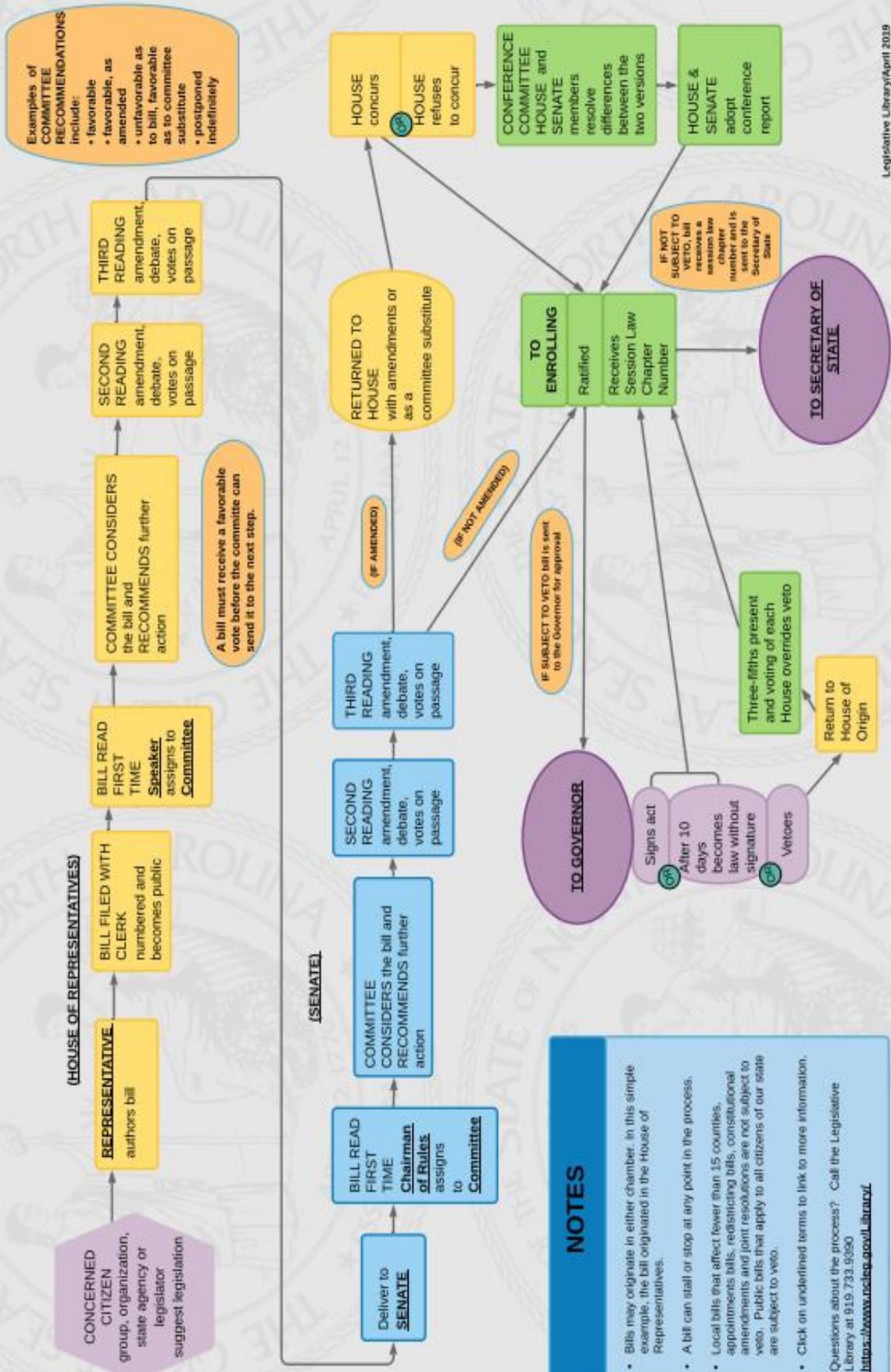
www.WilsonNCDems.com

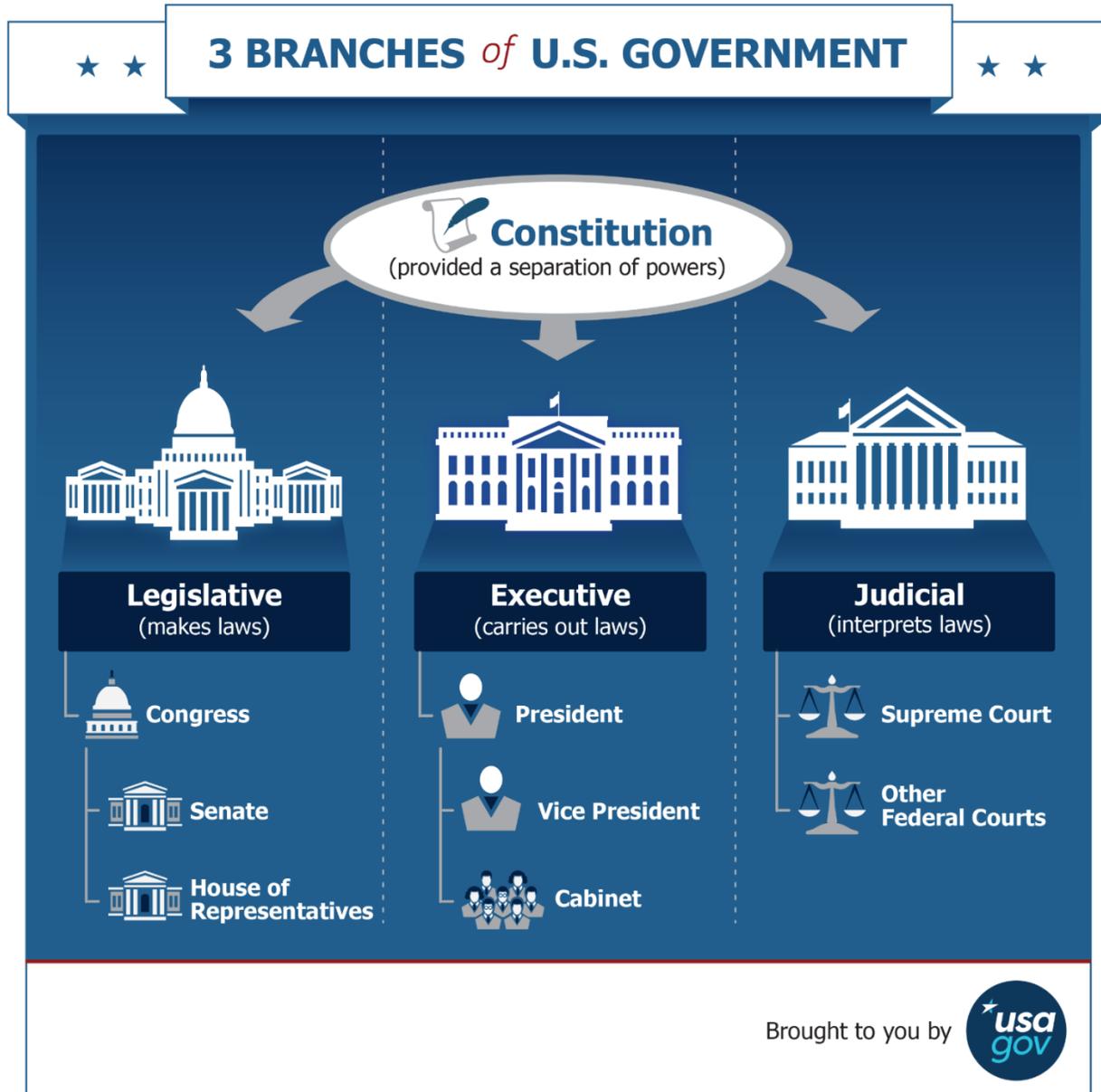
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How an Idea Becomes a Law in North Carolina





The branches of government are separate so that one branch does not have too much power.

There are checks and balances in and among each branch.

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Files/EducationalResources/HowAnIdeaBecomesALaw.pdf>

Click on the link above to see how an idea becomes a law.

You tube video link to School House Rock I'm Just a Bill

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgVKvqTltto>

Legislative Branch – responsible for making law; legislators are elected. It includes:

Federal/National – Congress which is made up of two branches, House of Representatives and the Senate; serve in Washington, DC, our nation's capital;

U.S. House of Representatives – the U.S. census that is taken every 10 years is important in deciding the number of representatives each state has, based on population; serve a 2 year term;

U.S. Senators - serve a 6 year term; two from each state regardless of population

North Carolina, as all states do, has a Legislative Branch. In North Carolina, legislators are elected and serve in the **NC State House of Representatives** and **Senate in Raleigh**, our state capital. Together this body is the **General Assembly**. There are 50 Senators and 120 Representatives. They all serve two year terms. All of these officials are expected to serve in the best interests of the citizens of their state.

Executive Branch – responsible for carrying out laws

Federal/National - President and Vice President elected; serve 4 years, up to 2 terms; the cabinet members (advisors to the President) are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

The president oversees the cabinet members. The Vice President is a member of the cabinet. The Vice President also manages the Senate (Legislative branch).

North Carolina's Executive Branch is made up of **Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, and Agency Department Heads**. Both the Governor and Lt. Governor are elected for a four year term and can serve up to two consecutive terms. The Department Heads make up the Governor's cabinet. Some of them are elected and others are appointed by the Governor.

Judicial Branch – responsible for interpreting laws and other judges' decisions

Federal/National – The President appoints justices to the US Supreme Court and lower courts, but the Senate has to approve and confirm the justices.

U.S. Supreme Court Justices are appointed **for life**.

North Carolina's judicial branch is made up of **NC Trial Court** (district and superior court) judges, **NC Appeals Court** judges and **NC Supreme Court judges**. The Chief Justice of NC's Supreme Court is elected and serves for 8 years. NC Appeals Court judges, Superior Court judges and District Court judges, are also elected and serve for 8 years.

To register to Vote in North Carolina, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
 - [See the USCIS website for citizenship information.](#)
 - Citizenship documents are NOT required to register.
- Live in the county where you are registering, and have lived there for at least 30 days before Election Day.
 - The federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) allows certain voters who are active duty military or their families as well as U.S. citizens abroad special rights that provide an expedited (faster) means to register and vote by mail-in ballot. Find more information on [Military and Overseas Voting.](#)
- Be at least 18 years old, or will be by the date of the general election.
 - [16- and 17-year-olds may preregister to vote.](#)
 - 17-year-olds may vote in a primary election if they will be 18 at the time of the general election.

Preregistering to Vote When You are 16 or 17 Years Old

Eligible voters who preregister will automatically be registered to vote when they turn 18 years old. Find more information at [Preregistering to Vote When You are 16 or 17 Years Old](#)

- Not be serving a sentence for a felony conviction, including probation, parole, or post-release supervision.
 - Note: By order of the court, you may now register and vote if you are serving an extended term of probation, post-release supervision, or parole, you have outstanding fines, fees, or restitution, and you do not know of another reason that your probation, post-release supervision, or parole was extended.
 - Once you have completed a felony sentence, including any probation, parole, or post-release supervision, or received a pardon, you are eligible to register and vote. No additional documentation is needed.
 - If you have been discharged from probation, you are eligible to register and vote, even if you still owe money or have a civil lien.

Registering as a Person in the NC Criminal Justice System

Find information at [Registering as a Person in the NC Criminal System.](#)

Note: An inactive voter is still a registered voter. (Voters may be classified as "Inactive" if they have not voted in two consecutive federal elections.) A voter who is classified as inactive will be asked to confirm his/her address when voting. No special document is required.

Registering as a College Student:

Find out where to register and how to register during the one-stop early voting period at [Registering as a College Student.](#)

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/registering/who-can-register>

How can I check my voter registration?

Go to www.NCSBE.gov

- Scroll down to voter search and click on that.
- Type in your first and last name and click search.
- Click on your name when it comes up.
- Scroll down to find information, your voting location, sample ballots and more.

If your name does NOT show up, contact us for help.

Watch this video to learn how to register to vote.

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/registering/how-register>

Overview of the Ways to Register



Learn about the ways to register to vote in North Carolina.

Voter registration applications are available in both English and Spanish.

The deadline for registration is 25 days before the election (October 14, 2022). If you miss this deadline you can register and vote at the Wilson County Board of Elections during early voting. You CANNOT both register AND vote on election day.

Voting is how you show what is important to you and is your voice!

USE YOUR VOICE

Who is on the Ballot? House of Representatives and Senate

(links are included for their campaign websites for more detailed information)

North Carolina House of Representatives - Our Democratic candidate on the ballot this November is **Linda Cooper-Suggs**. Some issues she has been working on include: Medicaid expansion, quality public education for every child, passing the Equal Rights Amendment, and rebuilding after the pandemic. www.lindacoopersuggs.com

North Carolina Senate – Our Democratic candidate on the ballot this November is **Milton (Toby) Fitch**. Some issues he is supporting include: workers’ rights, public education, the expansion of voting rights, and raising the minimum wage. www.fitchforsenate.com

It is important to point out that many potential bills come across the desks of these elected officials. It is almost impossible for one person to be aware of every issue. That is why it is so important that your Representative and Senator hear from the people of their districts. If they hear from five or more people about the same issue, they will pay attention and research it more fully since it matters to those who put them in office.

U.S. Senator – Our Democratic candidate this November is **Cheri Beasley**. She wants to “create good-paying jobs and expand access to affordable, quality health care in every part of North Carolina.” She also wants to keep children safe in schools and ensure women are paid equally in the workplace. www.cheribeasley.com

U.S. House of Representatives - Our Democratic candidate this November is **Don Davis**. His priorities include: healthcare, good paying jobs, supporting farmers and veterans, criminal justice reform, and broadband internet. www.votedondavis.com

According to their websites, the people running against Cheri Beasley and Don Davis are pro- Trump and America First (white nationalist), as well as being pro-gun, with little to no restrictions.

Remember:

In June the U.S. House Democrats voted to crack down on those jacking up the price of gas and **all House Republicans voted against** this bill which would have helped us with high gas prices.

In 2021 **Republicans voted against President Biden’s stimulus and infrastructure plans**, even though the majority of Americans supported the plans and desperately needed this help.

In 2020 and 2019, the **U.S. Senate Republicans twice voted to acquit** Donald Trump when the House of Representatives had impeached him. This means the Senate did not hold him accountable for his lies and his actions. This means that the twice-impeached former president could run for President again if he wanted.

We need Democrats in ALL these offices to look out for the interests of all North Carolinians.

Local Government Officials

These elected officials determine local policies for the citizens of Wilson County, which have the most immediate and direct impact on our daily lives.

Wilson County Commissioners – they are elected by citizens in their district and serve a 4 year term; there is no limit on the number of terms a person can serve as long as he/she keeps getting re-elected. Wilson has seven county commissioner districts. The seven commissioners work together.

Their job is to: hire county employees; set and approve county budgets; distribute funds for county activities; take care of county roads; make and enforce laws that have to do with development in the county, noise ordinances (rules) and animal control. All seven commissioners are on this November's ballot. However, only one is in a contested race: incumbent Republican Chris Hill of District 6 is being challenged by Democrat Darnell Thoms.

Our Democratic candidates on the ballot in November 2022 are **Leslie Atkinson** (District 1), **Sherry Lucas** (District 2), **JoAnne Daniels** (District 3), **Rob Boyette** (District 5) and **Darnell Thoms** (District 6). You vote for the commissioner in your district.



Wilson County Board of Education – these people are elected by citizens in their districts and serve a 4 year term. This November members in Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 are up for re-election. On the ballot these candidates are not listed as Democratic or Republican. You vote for the person in your district.

Filing for the School Board seats has now ended. Our current Democratic board members are **Debora Powell** (District 1), **Christine Fitch** (District 3), and **Beverly Boyette** (District 5). Another Democrat, Georgina Barbosa, has filed to challenge the incumbent in District 3.

The job of the Board of Education members is to work together to make policies related to the county public schools. This includes making rules about how people working for the school system and students in the schools should behave; having and carrying out a safety plan for all the schools; keeping the public informed about things going on with the schools; approve courses of study for the schools; determine if the schools are achieving the goals of the system; evaluate the educational programs offered in the schools; approving a budget and working to get funding to operate, maintain and improve the schools in the system. Wilsonschoolsnc.net p. 129

Who is on the Ballot? **District Attorney, Clerk of Superior Court, Sheriff**

Wilson County District Attorney – The District Attorney is a lawyer who works for the county in prosecuting (bringing charges against, showing evidence against and asking for a conviction of guilty) criminals. The DA decides whether criminal charges are brought, which cases are dismissed or diverted from court, including plea bargains, and to some extent, the sanctions that people convicted of crimes will face. The DA supervises assistant district attorneys and others in preparing cases for trial. This person is elected for a four-year term.

Our Democratic candidate on the ballot in November is **Robert Evans**.

<https://www.nccourts.gov/learn/court-officials#district-attorneys-3627>

Wilson County Clerk of Superior Court – This elected official serves a four-year term. Some of the responsibilities this person has include: court proceedings having to do with wills; rights of minor children and others; adoptions; guardianship; keeping court records; issuing arrest and search warrants for criminal matters, and summoning of jurors for a jury trial.

Our Democratic candidate on the ballot in November is **Caroline Quinn**.

<https://www.nccourts.gov/learn/court-officials#section-clerks-of-superior-court>

Wilson County Sheriff – The Sheriff is the head law enforcement person in the county. He and his deputies patrol the county, make sure residents are following the law, and enforce the law. The sheriff is responsible for promoting public safety in Wilson County and for managing the county jail and the inmates. The sheriff is elected for a four-year term.

Our Democratic candidate on the ballot is **Calvin Woodard, Jr.**

<https://www.countyoffice.org/nc-wilson-county-sheriff/>

<https://www.wilsoncountync.gov/departments/office-of-the-sheriff>

Wilson County Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor- This position is not listed on the ballot as Democrat or Republican. This is a four-year term. This person works with the rest of the soil and water conservation team locally and with other state teams on issues related to using and preserving natural resources of Wilson County and NC. This may include things like flood control, erosion, safe drinking water, and treating of wastewater, farm management practices, and restoring streams. Two seats are up for election in November. Current incumbents are **Bryan Lamm** and **Gary Scott**.

www.ncagr.gov



Who is On the Ballot: Judges

Judges – Judges are elected to make decisions that affect all Wilson County and North Carolina residents. That is why it is important to elect **fair** and **qualified** judges into office. The term that a judge serves for is 8 years.

NC Superior Court – superior court judges hear felony cases (with jury trials) and civil cases that involve matters of \$25,000 or more (no jury). They are responsible for applying the law to the facts of a case. These judges also hear appeals cases from district court. Our Democratic candidate on the ballot in November is **William Wolfe**.

NC District Court-- Like the superior court division, district courts hold trials and seats juries to determine the facts of specific cases. District courts handle serious, but lower level crimes, and civil cases between \$10,000 - \$25,000. The state is divided into district court districts where the court usually sits in the county seat of each county. Our Democratic candidates for District Court are **Pell Cooper for Seat 1 and Wayne Boyette for Seat 2**.

NC Court of Appeals – The judges on this court hear trial court cases to check if there were mistakes in law and/or legal procedures in those lower court cases and decisions. The judges do not hear new testimony from witnesses or see/hear new evidence. The NC Court of Appeals judges can also hear appeals from state administrative agency cases. Our Democratic candidates on the ballot in November are **Carolyn Thompson, Brad Salmon, Gale Murray Adams, and Darren Jackson**. **Vote for all of them**, as they hold different seats on the Court of Appeals and we need more Democratic judges.

NC Supreme Court – This is the highest court in North Carolina. Justices decide if mistakes occurred in trials or in the appeals court judges' interpretation of the law. The judges do not hear new testimony from witnesses or see/hear new evidence. Our Democratic candidates on the ballot in November are **Lucy Inman** and **Sam Ervin IV**. **Vote for both**, since they hold different seats on the Supreme Court and we need more Democratic judges.

www.nccourts.gov/learn/types-of-courts



NC (State) Court System



Let's Elect Judges Who Believe in

"...and Liberty and Justice FOR ALL!"





President Biden's Build Back Better Bill

Provide universal preschool.

Provide free Community College.

Expand Medicare services and Medicaid .

Lower prescription drug costs.

Cut taxes for families with children.

Provide increases in child tax credits.

Increase paid family leave.

Invest in affordable housing.

Provide incentives for clean energy initiatives.