



Elected Office Power Jeopardy

US Congress Member

I have the power to make the nation's laws, declare war, and raise and spend public money (taxes). I have the power to approve some presidential appointments and treaties, and oversee some federal agencies. I may serve on federal committees about issues like education; the budget; the workforce; veterans affairs; homeland security; natural resources; and science and space. I also have the power to impeach and try federal officers, including the US President.

NC Legislature (NC House and Senate)

I am one of 170 people elected to make the laws of North Carolina. I have the power to: pass laws that expand or restrict the right to vote; draw voting districts for Congressional and state elections; decide whether to give NC public school teachers a raise; decide whether to expand or cut Medicaid; decide gun laws for the state of NC; and more.

NC Supreme Court Justice

I am NC's highest level justice. I have no jury. When it comes to state law, my decision is the final word. I have the power to hear appeals for court cases decided by the NC Court of Appeals, and to directly hear criminal cases involving the death penalty.

NC Court of Appeals Justice

I have power to review civil and criminal cases first decided in the superior and district courts, except for murder cases involving the death penalty. I hear appeals about misdemeanor and felony charges, and decide issues like whether a law enforcement officer had reasonable suspicion to arrest a defendant. My court is the only intermediate appellate court in the state.

Superior Court Judge

I have the power to hear felony criminal cases and civil cases involving more than \$25,000. I hear misdemeanor and infraction appeals from District Court. A jury of 12 hears the criminal cases in my court, but in the civil cases, juries are often waived. I have the power to set bail schedules, or what amount of money a defendant must pay to be released from jail while awaiting a trial, depending on what type of crime they are accused of committing.

District Court Judge

I have the power to hear court cases involving misdemeanors, and civil cases involving less than \$25,000. I decide cases on issues like domestic violence, divorce, custody and child support, drug possession, traffic violations, and juvenile cases. I have the power to determine how much bail, if any, a defendant must pay to be released from jail before their trial.

District Attorney

I have the power to represent the state of North Carolina in all criminal and some juvenile justice matters. I decide what someone accused of a crime is charged with and whether a person is charged with a criminal offense. I have the power to drop or reduce charges, or offer

a defendant a plea deal. I decide how long someone must wait before they go to trial. I have the power to recommend pre-trial release or bail amounts, advise law enforcement about what information they need in order to get a conviction for an alleged crime, and whether a defendant is tried for the death penalty. I also have the power to investigate the killing of a person by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, and decide whether the officer should face charges.

Sheriff

I am the only law enforcement officer to have jurisdiction throughout an entire county. I have the power to issue subpoenas, warrants, summonses, make arrests and extradite prisoners. I decide whether or not to comply with detention requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). I do routine patrols, manage traffic control, transport prisoners, administer the jail, and maintain safety and security in the court. I have the power to supervise inmates, protect their rights, provide them with food, clothing, exercise and medical services. I am in charge of corrections facilities, detox centers, group homes, halfway houses, and work-release programs. I also have the power to enforce payment of debts and the sale of property, and enforce eviction notices.

Board of County Commissioners

I have the power to set local property taxes and adopt an annual budget for a county and all its services. I have the power to adopt local laws, which are called ordinances, and to pass resolutions. I have the power to provide the local board of elections with funds for voting machines, poll workers and tools for election administration.

Clerk of Court

I am a record-keeper for the district and superior courts. I have power to decide if a will is valid, and to administer estates of decedents, minors and people deemed incompetent. I have power to hear a variety of special proceedings, like adoptions, incompetency determinations, and partitions of land. I have the power to issue arrest and search warrants and take guilty pleas of minor littering, traffic, wildlife, alcohol, worthless check, and boating violations.

Register of Deeds

I record and index all real estate and business related documents in a county. I have the power to issue marriage licenses, commission notary publics, provide certified copies of documents like birth certificates and death records, and record and keep certain military records. I have the power to cancel deeds of trust and mortgages.

Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor

I have the power to protect natural resources on public and private lands. I work with agriculture producers and landowners to protect their land and water, and work overall to improve how people in an area use, store, and conserve water.

School Board Member

I have the power to adopt annual public school budgets for a particular system, but I cannot tax citizens. I make policies that impact public school buildings and students. For example, I have the power to write and update or change the county's public school student code of conduct. I have the power to hire and oversee the public schools superintendent and the core academic curricula for a local school system.