



# Guilford County North Carolina

Fiscal Year 2009

## CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE BUDGET

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### GUILFORD COUNTY'S MISSION

TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE, RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT THAT MEETS THE PUBLIC'S NEEDS AND IMPROVES OUR COMMUNITY.

#### Guilford County Characteristics

Guilford County measures 651 square miles and has a population of 460,780. The County is located in the Piedmont Triad region, a twelve-county area in the north central portion of the State. Guilford County is home to eight colleges and universities: the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Greensboro College, Bennett College, Elon School of Law, Guilford College, High Point University, and Guilford Technical Community College.



The Board of County Commissioners is the chief administrative and policymaking body of Guilford County and consists of eleven members, nine of whom are elected from districts and two of whom are elected at-large. Board members serve four-year staggered terms. The Board elects a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its membership during the first meeting in December.

The County contains two cities and eight townships: Greensboro, High Point, Jamestown, Sedalia, Pleasant Garden, Oak Ridge, Stokesdale, Summerfield, Gibsonville, and Whitsett. The latest census data shows that Guilford County has 1,095 farms and 111,382 acres of land used in farming.

#### Guilford County Budget and Organization

Guilford County carries out many governmental services and supports additional functions. The fiscal year 2009 approved general fund budget is \$586.1 million, which maintains and enhances the County's existing services while planning for the future. The major budget categories are: General Government, Public Safety, Human Services, Education, Community Services, Support Services and Debt. The County will levy 73.74 cents per \$100 of valuation in property taxes.

Guilford County has 2,641 full-time equivalent employees. Of the total current operating budget, 30% is for personnel-related costs. This year, the County is funding capital improvements, including renovations to the Greensboro Courthouse and opening the recently purchased BB & T Building. New construction projects include a Social Services building in High Point, Emergency Services bases, and a Detention Center in Greensboro.

### Board of Commissioners

Chairman Kirk Perkins District 4
Vice Chairman Kay Cashion District 6
Commissioner Bruce E. Davis District 1
Commissioner Steve Arnold District 2
Commissioner Linda O. Shaw District 3
Commissioner Billy Yow District 5
Commissioner Mike Winstead, Jr. District 7
Commissioner Melvin L. "Skip" Alston District 8
Commissioner Carolyn Q. Coleman District 9
Commissioner Paul Gibson At Large
Commissioner John Parks At Large

### County Priorities

Encouraging a Prosperous Community

Providing Educational Opportunity

Fostering Diversity

Ensuring Public Safety

Improving Physical and Mental Health

Valuing Economic Growth

Producing a Rich Quality of Life

W. David McNeill, Jr.  
County Manager

## *Effective, Efficient, Responsive Government*

Guilford County was awarded a Government Trailblazer Grant by the National Center for Civic Innovation, which recognized the County's efforts to engage the public by incorporating a citizen's perspective in communications. This short *Citizen's Guide to the Budget* was produced based on citizen feedback. More detailed performance data is in the larger Service Efforts and Accomplishment Report, which is available at the County's website: <http://www.co.guilford.nc.us>.

Guilford County government has sought to be responsive to citizens through its strategic planning efforts. The Strategic Alliance Committee, with support from Management and the Board of Commissioners, conducted seven community forums around the County to obtain citizen input. Citizen feedback was also obtained through an on-line resident survey and special focus group meetings convened with Businesspeople; Non-Profits; Educators; Immigrants; and Environmental groups among others.

The County continues its strategic planning efforts and will incorporate strategic goals in a balanced scorecard format with more detailed departmental business plans to guide resource allocation in the budget process. County departments will be held accountable through strategic commitments or benchmarks, which will allow progress to be communicated to the citizens in a user-friendly manner. For more up-to-date information, visit the Strategic Alliance website at <http://www.co.guilford.nc.us>.

Guilford County is striving to improve the quality and efficiency of its services as well as its communication with citizens. If you would like more information about the 2009 Budget, visit <http://www.co.guilford.nc.us>.

## HOW WE HAVE PROGRESSED

PROGRESS IN PRIORITY AREAS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

### Ensuring Public Safety

Funding to build a new Guilford County Detention Center in Greensboro was secured in May 2008 when voters approved a \$114.6 million General Obligation Bond. To date, architects have finalized design documentation. Within this building, there will be six floors of inmate housing, a medical unit, magistrate's area, and office space for various support services. Once the new Detention Center is completed, safety improvements will be made to the existing facility.

Guilford County Emergency Services opened a new High Point base in September 2007. Emergency Services began in 1969 with two bases. Today, the department operates 13 locations throughout the County and handles over 36,000 calls annually.

### New Detention Center Proposal



### Providing Educational Opportunity

In May 2008, Guilford County residents approved \$457 million in school bonds. The package contained 27 projects, which included five new schools and 6,500 new student seats. Thirteen schools will receive major renovations and additions. Projects are prioritized with 93.5% for relieving overcrowding, 3.5% targeting repairs and renovations, and 3% for improving heating and air systems.

#### New Schools Under Construction

The Academy at Smith  
Eastern High School & Pod Village  
Guilford Elementary School  
Northern Elementary School  
Northern High School  
Pruette SCALE School  
Union Hill Elementary School  
Southern Middle School

#### Additions & Renovations

Ferndale Middle School  
Oakview Elementary School  
Parkview Elementary School  
Pleasant Garden Elementary School  
Washington Montessori

### Producing a Rich Quality of Life

The County has drafted a Green Government Plan. This document was intended to chart a road map to a more sustainable County. It followed the basic tenets laid out by the National Association of Counties (NACO) Green Government Program.

The main goals of the Plan are to 1) carry out County business in the most sustainable ways possible, consistent with practical budget application 2) cut costs or reduce the rate of increase in costs by increasing efficiency in County operations 3) assist the public in its efforts to live more sustainably, through advocacy and education. You can view the Plan on-line and make comments for consideration as the Plan is fully developed at the following website: <http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/greenguilford>.



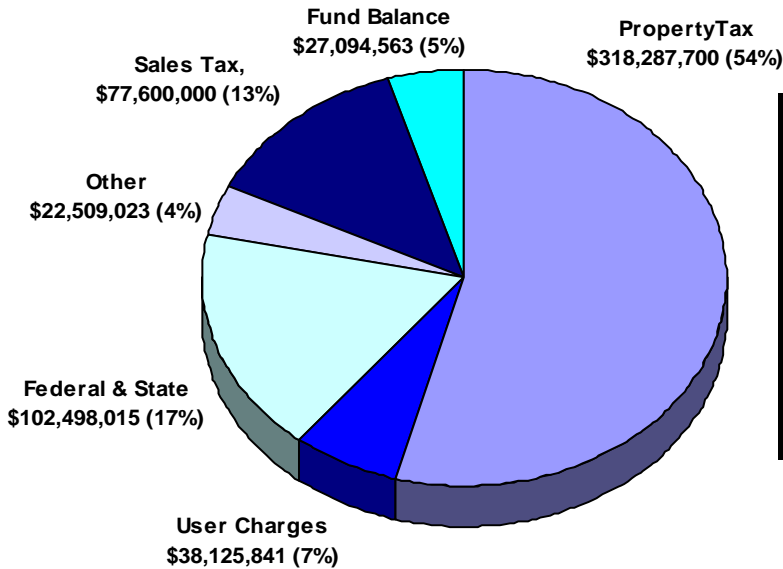
During the year, three additional County buildings began to recycle.

# THE COUNTY'S BUDGET

## FISCAL YEAR 2009

### General Fund Revenues

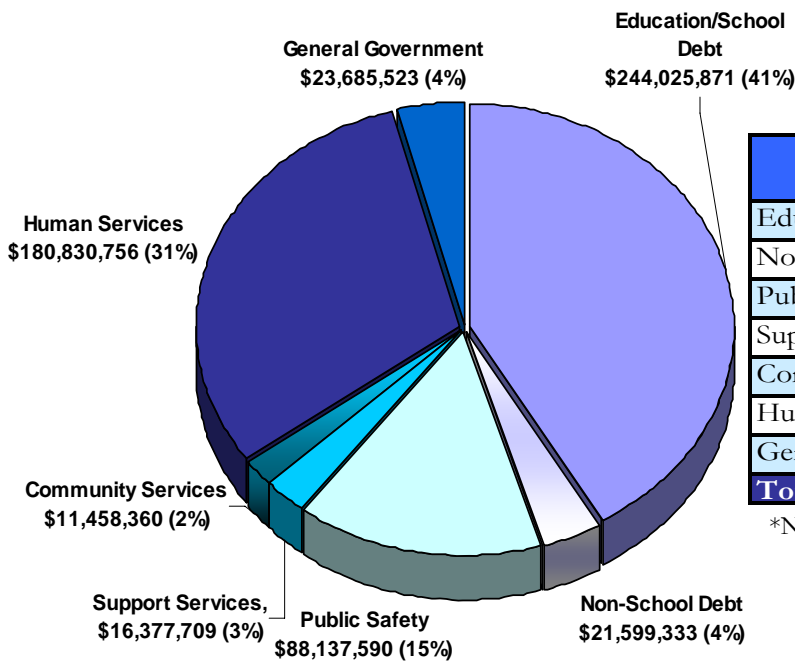
Fiscal Year 2009 Adopted Revenues



Source	2008 Revenue	2009 Revenue
Property Tax	\$ 289,097,221	\$ 318,287,700
User Charges	\$ 33,573,950	\$ 38,125,841
Federal & State Funds	\$ 90,610,966	\$ 102,498,015
Other	\$ 25,465,645	\$ 22,509,023
Sales Tax	\$ 85,250,000	\$ 77,600,000
Fund Balance	\$ 25,264,042	\$ 27,094,563
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 549,261,824</b>	<b>\$ 586,115,142</b>

### General Fund Expenditures

Fiscal Year 2009 Adopted Expenditures



Category	2008 Expenditures	2009 Expenditures
Education/School Debt	\$ 222,849,429	\$ 244,025,871
Non-School Debt	\$ 13,912,270	\$ 21,599,333
Public Safety	\$ 82,310,913	\$ 88,137,590
Support Services	\$ 16,434,281	\$ 16,377,709
Community Services	\$ 10,548,769	\$ 11,458,360
Human Services	\$ 179,332,482	\$ 180,830,756
General Government	\$ 23,873,680	\$ 23,685,523
<b>Total*</b>	<b>\$ 549,261,824</b>	<b>\$ 586,115,142</b>

\*Note: Amounts are adjusted from original budget to account for allocated shares of anticipated vacancy savings and position cuts.

# WHAT'S NEXT?

## FUTURE CHALLENGES AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### *Key Economic Trends*

Guilford County has been impacted by the loss of manufacturing jobs that have moved to lower-cost countries around the world. In fiscal year 2008, the County's unemployment rate matched North Carolina's rate of 5.1%. This was slightly higher than the United States' rate of 4.9%. For calendar year 2007, Guilford's per capita income was \$26,369, compared to North Carolina's at \$24,307 and the nation at \$26,688. From calendar year 2006 to calendar year 2007, the North Carolina Demographer reports a 2.1% increase in population.

Indicator	CY 2006	CY 2007
Population	451,087	460,780
Per Capita Income	\$24,806	\$26,369
Inflation Rate	3.2%	2.8%

Indicator	FY 2007	FY 2008
Unemployment	4.7%	5.1%
State Sales Tax Growth	5.6%	1.5%
Property Tax Base Growth	3.2%	3.1%
Food Stamps Growth Rate	6.0%	10.5%

The per capita income shows an increase of 6.3% during the same period with a 2007 inflation rate of 2.8%. Inflation for fiscal year 2008 is much higher at 5% when compared to fiscal year 2007.

Unemployment rose from the year before and State sales tax experienced a drop in growth from 5.6% to 1.5%. For the fiscal year 2009 budget, the Guilford County tax base was \$44.2 billion compared to \$43.2 billion the year before, a 2.3% increase. Growth in the major revenue sources did not allow for expansion of services, as demand outpaced revenue sources. Areas such as Food Stamps experienced a 10.5% increase in the number of households participating.

Despite concerns about the economy, several recent events will produce long-term benefits in Guilford County: 1) a \$58 million investment by the State to build the Joint School for Nanoscience and Nanoengineering at the Gateway University Research Park; 2) the FedEx Mid-Atlantic Hub is nearing completion and begins operations in 2009; 3) the formation of the New Transportation & Logistic Institute, a collaboration between Guilford Technical Community College and area colleges; and 4) business expansion and relocations of HondaJet, Zink Imaging, Lenova, Proctor & Gamble, Trans Tech Pharma, and O'Reilly Auto Parts.

### *Guilford County Fiscal Year 2009 Highlights*

Highlights of the fiscal year 2009 budget include:

- First year of operating and debt costs for the Greensboro BB & T Building to meet Greensboro court space needs.
- \$230.3 million for Guilford County Schools for operating and capital expenses.
- \$1.46 million for Guilford County Technical Community College for operating and capital expenses.
- \$1.2 million to fund the Guilford County Substance Abuse Center.
- \$1.5 million Medicaid relief provided by the General Assembly.
- \$250,000 in funding for a Health Clinic in Southeast Greensboro.
- Full year funding for 28 detention officers to improve safety at the Greensboro Jail in addition to new funding for four bailiffs and four deputies.
- Second year funding for Mental Health Courts in Greensboro and High Point as well as contracts with community-based agencies to reduce the jail's pre-trial population.