

Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2025

MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Budget/Public Policy Session in Conference Center Room 267 on the 2nd floor of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, North Carolina at 2:32 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Mark Jerrell, Vice-Chair Leigh Altman
and Commissioners George Dunlap,
Arthur Griffin, Vilma D. Leake, Laura J. Meier,
Elaine Powell, Susan Rodriguez-McDowell,
Yvette Townsend-Ingram
County Manager Dena R. Diorio
County Attorney Tyrone C. Wade
Clerk to the Board Kristine M. Smith
Deputy Clerk to the Board Arlissa Eason

Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Jerrell, followed by introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

25-0296 CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST

The Board received a request for FY2026 funding from Central Piedmont Community College.

Background: As part of the annual budget process, Central Piedmont submits a funding request to the County for consideration. Representatives from the college will present the FY2026 funding request to the Board of County Commissioners.

Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, President, and Jessica Boyce, Vice President for Finance and Facilities Operations gave the presentation.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY BUDGET

2025-2026



Highlights from Central Piedmont

More than **31,000** students enrolled for programs during our fall 2024 semester

More than **33,000** students enrolled for programs during our spring 2025 semester

10 consecutive semesters of enrollment growth

Offered nearly **\$4 million** in Foundation scholarships so far this academic year and expanded payment plan options

Launched **multi-term registration** allowing students to register for a full academic year

Student Demographics

- 55%** female
- 45%** male
- 34%** younger than 21
- 31%** age 21 to 30
- 51%** minority
- 67%** part-time

Workforce, Partnerships & Community Impact



Growing our workforce partnerships



66

Graduates in our line worker program in two years since launching



40

Students involved in our county cohort partnership in the last year



2

Years of successfully running our apprenticeship program with Coca-Cola Consolidated

Other highlights:

- 223: Mecklenburg employers with Central Piedmont has work-based learning partnerships
- 25: Local employers involved in registered apprenticeship programs with Central Piedmont
- Customized training agreements with Legion Brewing, Ipex USA, Siemens, and A&W Electric



Rethinking and expanding education partnerships

- 17 Guaranteed Admission Programs with colleges and universities
- Operating Central Piedmont Academy at 12 CMS high schools and anticipate growing to 19 high schools in FY26
- Launching *Accelerate to Success* – an automotive summer bridge program
- 12 shared College & Career Coaches with CMS
- Renewed and expanded transfer pathway with UNC Charlotte



Community partnerships delivering impact for the region

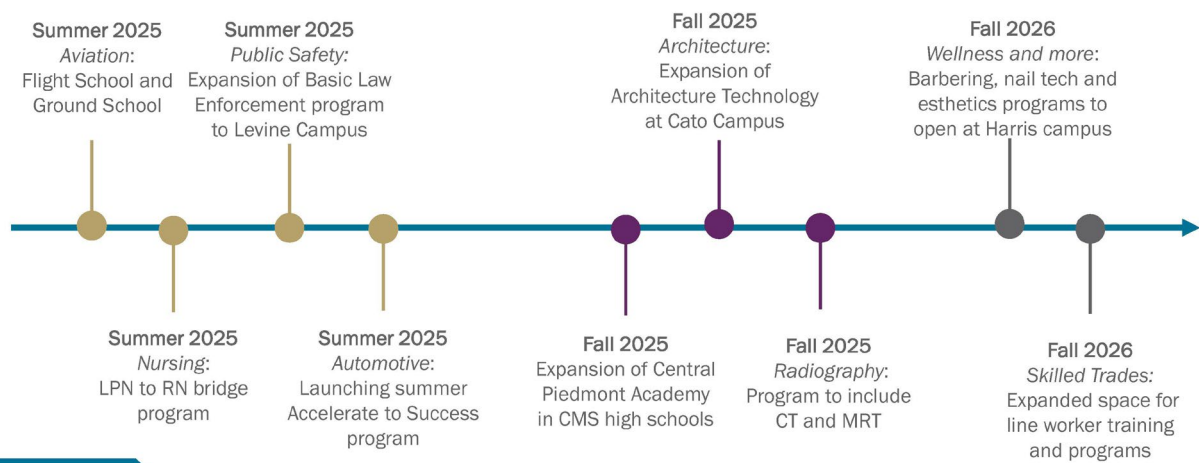
New in 2025

- CATS Light Rail apprenticeship
- Work-based learning student placements with Meck County Court and NC Guardian Ad Litem programs

Ongoing

- Mecklenburg Co. Public Health Give Kids a Smile Day
- NC Dental Society/Charlotte Area Dental Society – Free Dental Clinic
- STRIVE Program with Mecklenburg Co. Pre-K
- Atrium Health Women’s Health Mobile Clinic
- Small Business Center – “Business LaunchPad” with Mecklenburg Co. Office of Economic Development

Academic Programming Growth



County Budget
Request FY 2026



Budget Priorities FY 2026

Objective
Strategic Stewardship of
Financial and Facility Resources

- Sustaining operations while keeping pace with inflation
- Continued strategic investments in security and safety measures
- Maintaining a clean and organized learning environment
- Continuing the maintenance of our facilities and infrastructure to ensure the longevity of the County's investments

Objective
Talent Development

- Recruit and Retain Talent in a highly competitive market
- Funding mandatory raise & increases in health and retirement benefits



County Operating Budget

SUMMARY

OPERATING BUDGET	FY2025	FY2026	Variance
	Adopted Budget	Requested Budget	
Capital Purchases	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
Facilities Maintenance and Security	33,827,327	35,449,154	1,621,827
Facility Support Cost	3,454,473	3,776,001	321,528
Wage & Benefit Allocation	10,039,067	10,340,239	301,172
TOTAL FUNDING	\$47,320,867	\$49,865,394	\$2,544,527
			INCREASE: 5.38%



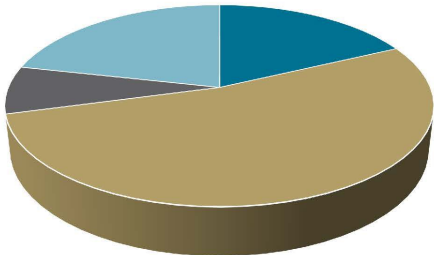
County Operating Budget

DETAIL

OPERATING BUDGET		FY2025	FY2026	Variance
		Adopted Budget	Requested Budget	
Capital Purchases				
1	Maintenance vehicles	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
2	Maintenance equipment	0	0	0
Facilities Maintenance and Security				
3	Salaries & benefits	8,368,692	9,150,778	782,086
4	Cost of utilities	6,150,149	5,896,546	(253,603)
5	Cost of supplies and materials	25,948	21,369	(4,579)
6	Cost of operation of motor vehicles	15,358	14,336	(1,022)
7	Cost of maintenance and repairs of buildings, grounds, security infrastructure	14,236,686	14,991,076	754,390
8	Maintenance and replacement of furniture and equipment	324,459	490,079	165,620
9	Maintenance of plant heating, electrical, and plumbing equipment	4,154,280	4,283,215	128,935
10	Rental of land and buildings	551,755	601,755	50,000
Facility Support Services				
11	Insurance for buildings, contents, motor vehicles, workers' compensation, etc.	2,944,473	3,226,001	281,528
12	Legal fees	510,000	550,000	40,000
Funding Pursuant to NC, 115D-32 (Local Financial Support of Institutions)		\$37,281,800	\$39,525,155	\$2,243,355
13	Wage & benefit allocation	10,039,067	10,340,239	301,172
TOTAL FUNDING		\$47,320,867	\$49,865,394	\$2,544,527

County Operating Budget

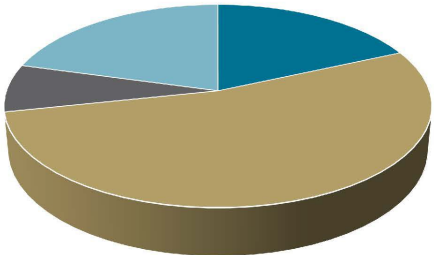
PROJECTED



FY2025

\$8,368,692 (18%)
\$25,458,635 (54%)
\$3,454,473 (7%)
\$10,039,067 (21%)
\$47,320,867

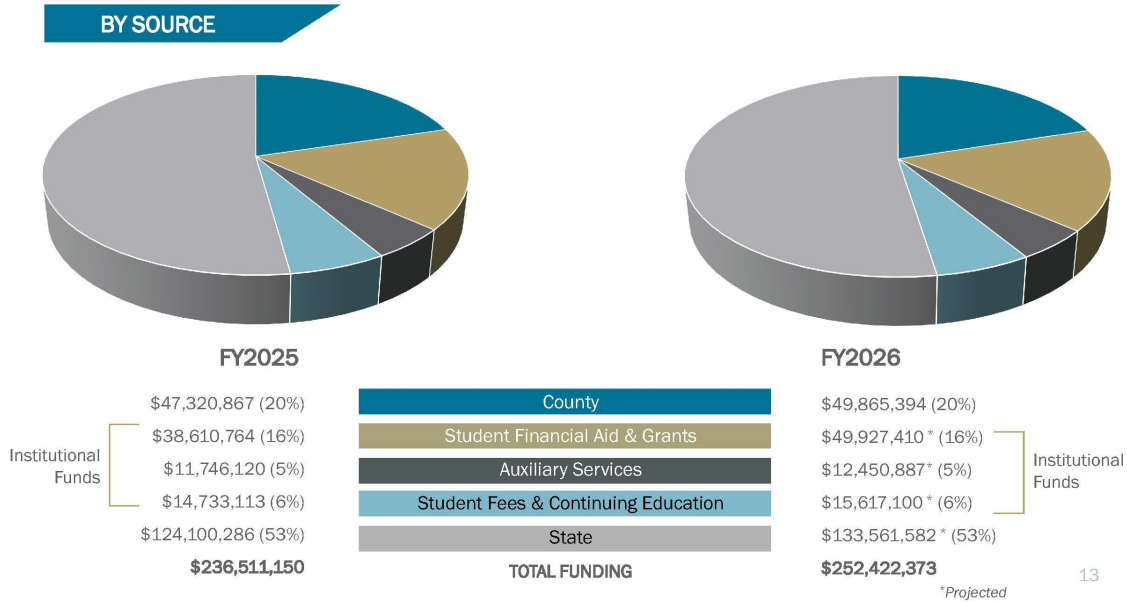
Salaries & Benefits
Capital Purchases, Facilities Maintenance & Security
Facility Support Costs
Wage & Benefit Allocation
TOTAL FUNDING



FY2026

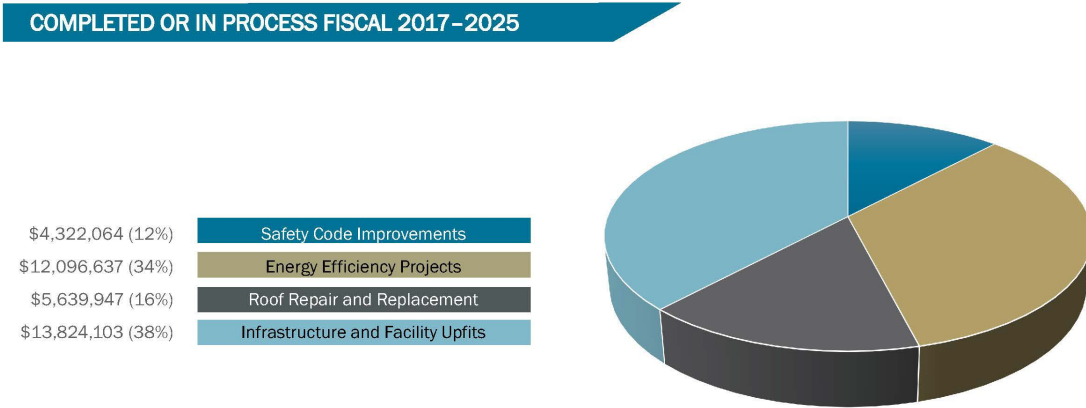
\$9,150,778 (18%)
\$26,598,376 (53%)
\$3,776,001 (8%)
\$10,340,239 (21%)
\$49,865,394

Central Piedmont Operating Budget



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Capital Maintenance Projects



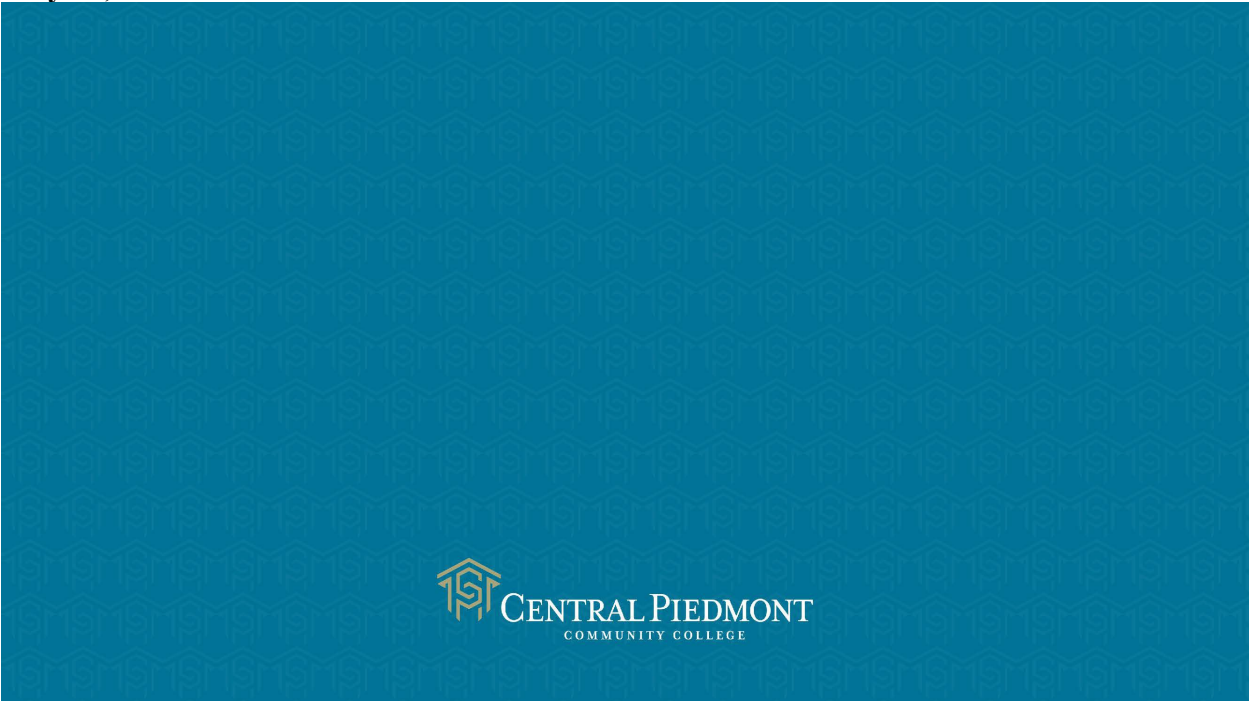
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Capital Maintenance Projects – FY 2026

ESTIMATES		
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS		ESTIMATED COST
1	Card Access Phase 5 – Levine & Harris Campuses	\$1,200,000
2	Replacement of Parking Deck 3 Elevators – Central Campus	350,000
3	Replacement of Parking Deck 4 Elevators – Central Campus	325,000
4	Replacement of Giles Elevator – Central Campus	300,000
5	Harris 2 – Exterior Egress Stair Replacement	200,000
6	Harper 1 – Structural Repairs to Exterior Masonry Stair Wall	250,000
7	Central Campus Underground 4-Pipe Valve Replacement Project	350,000
8	Baking & Pastry Arts Program Relocation – Central Campus	200,000
9	Bryant Hall Renovation – Central Campus	400,000
TOTAL PROJECTS		\$3,575,000

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Capital Maintenance Project Descriptions

Levine and Harris Campuses: Card Access Phase 5 - Project scope consists of turn-key installation of door card access control upgrades to existing classrooms, labs, office suites, and assembly spaces at Levine and Harris campuses. Scope to include installation of structured cabling, card readers, controllers, electrified mortice hardware, closers, and other door accessories.

Central Campus: Replacement of Parking Deck 3 Elevators - These two elevators greatly need a partial modernization. We propose to retain the controllers and power units, but replace the car and hoistway door equipment, cab interiors, fixtures, and necessary wiring.

Central Campus: Replacement of Parking Deck 4 Elevator - This elevator has significant obsolescence. We propose to complete a turnkey hydraulic elevator modernization that includes code required building related work. Controller, hoistway wiring, car and hoistway door equipment, power unit, and fixtures are included.

Central Campus: Replacement of Giles Elevator - This elevator is at the end of its useful life and needs to be modernized. We propose to complete a turnkey hydraulic elevator modernization that includes code requirements building related work. Controller hoistway wiring, car and hoistway door equipment (retaining new door operator), power unit, and fixtures are included.

Harris Campus: Harris 2 – Exterior Egress Stair Replacement - Project scope consists of demolition and replacement of exiting 2-story steel/concrete egress stairway/landing that serves as primary emergency egress from the building. The stairs are original construction that have sustained substantial corrosion to the metal stringers and tread pans.

Harper Campus: Harper 1 – Structural Repairs to Exterior Masonry Stair Wall – Project scope includes structural repair and shoring of existing masonry stair retaining wall due to cracking and deflection from prolonged differential settlement, along the side of the exterior monumental stairs.

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Capital Maintenance Project Descriptions

Central Campus: Underground 4-Pipe Valve Replacement Project - The Central Campus underground hot and chilled water loop (4-pipe) is approaching 25 years of age in some locations. The college has repaired approximately eight (8) sections of the loop over the past seven years that have failed due to installation errors. The college will use this project to proactively evaluate the full loop and repair any sections deemed to be approaching imminent failure.

Central Campus: Baking & Pastry Arts Program Relocation Expense - The Baking & Pastry Arts program is currently located on the Harris Campus. With the Harris 1 renovation for Cosmetology, Barbering, and Wellness, the Baking & Pastry Arts program will be relocated to the Central Campus (Van Every building). Project scope consists of moving equipment and minor updates to an existing classroom in Van Every building.

Central Campus: Bryant Hall Renovation - The Bryant Hall Auditorium/Classroom Music Lab serves as a dedicated space designed to enhance the musical abilities of students and faculty through a collaborative and supportive environment. The existing facility needs upgrades to meet the requirements of the students and faculty. Project scope consists of sound system upgrades, acoustic treatment, audiovisual integration, seating and layout optimization, lighting design, and floor replacement.

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Comments

Commissioner Powell said she was happy to see them become energy efficient in the future and asked them to include environmental stewardship for native landscaping on their properties.

Commissioner Griffin, concerning slide 5, said that having 12 partners was phenomenal. He said the transition from CMS to college was great as well. On slide 4, he said he was interested in workforce development and their training agreements with Siemens. On slide 7, with the continuation of the aviation piece, he asked for more information and how it related to the airport. He said it was a great job opportunity that they owned. He said he hoped they would be able to find a way to broaden with families, and that they saw the value. *Dr. Deitemeyer said they were both new opportunities and in conversation with the airport about expanding. She said they've had a longstanding relationship with them for job internships. She said they had a lot of exciting things they wanted to do.*

Commissioner Leake asked if the parking decks were owned by the campus or the City. *Ms. Boyce said it was mixed ownership, and that some of them they owned, and some were leased from the County.* Commissioner Leake asked how much revenue they were receiving from the parking decks to defray some of the expenses. She also asked if the State was cooperating with its responsibilities. *Ms. Boyce said they didn't have revenue connected to the parking, but the students were assessed a fee for security, access, and maintenance of the parking decks.* Commissioner Leake asked about the Atrium program for women, what they were going to provide to advance the health of minorities. *Dr. Deitemeyer said it was a priority for them. She said men of color and the overall enrollment of men had been declining. She said the wellness center would be opening soon and was open to everyone. She said it would have counseling services along with housing assistance, assistance with food insecurities, mental health, and other services for the students and the community.*

Commissioner Meier said she was a supporter of CPCC and what they did.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell said she appreciated the variety of opportunities on slide 7. She said she wanted to make sure they were being good stewards when it came to the environment. *Dr. Deitemeyer said it added to the 300-plus programs that they had. She said they were starting a barbering program, as well as an esthetician program, and expanding their massage therapy program.* Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked if students went between campuses. *Dr. Deitemeyer said yes. She said they often heard that transportation had been an issue, but it was down the list of things the students said that mattered. She said finances were the main issue.* Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell said the silver line would help, as the fees added up for students. *Dr. Deitemeyer said the fees were based on the credit hours the student was enrolled in, which helped.*

Commissioner Dunlap asked if parking fees were assessed to students with vehicles or if all students paid. *Ms. Boyce said they were assessed to all students who were not exclusively online. Commissioner Dunlap asked what maintenance vehicles were on slide 10. Ms. Boyce said 5 vehicles needed replacement, and 2 new vehicles were needed. She said it was for them to move around campus to provide maintenance.* Commissioner Dunlap said the community needed to be made aware of the aviation program.

Commissioner Powell left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked about talent in the pipeline, how they determined if the program was aligned with what businesses wanted or the demand of students. She asked who drove that. She asked about wellness and programs, if there was a program similar to doulas related to the black maternal rate, or would there be one in the future. She asked how the County could help more with the issues. She said she didn't think the people were getting an understanding of the programs available. She asked who the automotive program was open to.

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Dr. Deitemeyer said it would be open to any CMS student. She said the doula program could be embedded in the nursing program. Concerning the talent pipeline, she said it depended on the company and what they needed. She said the work they did with partners helped map the need, and they were in the right spaces to figure it out.

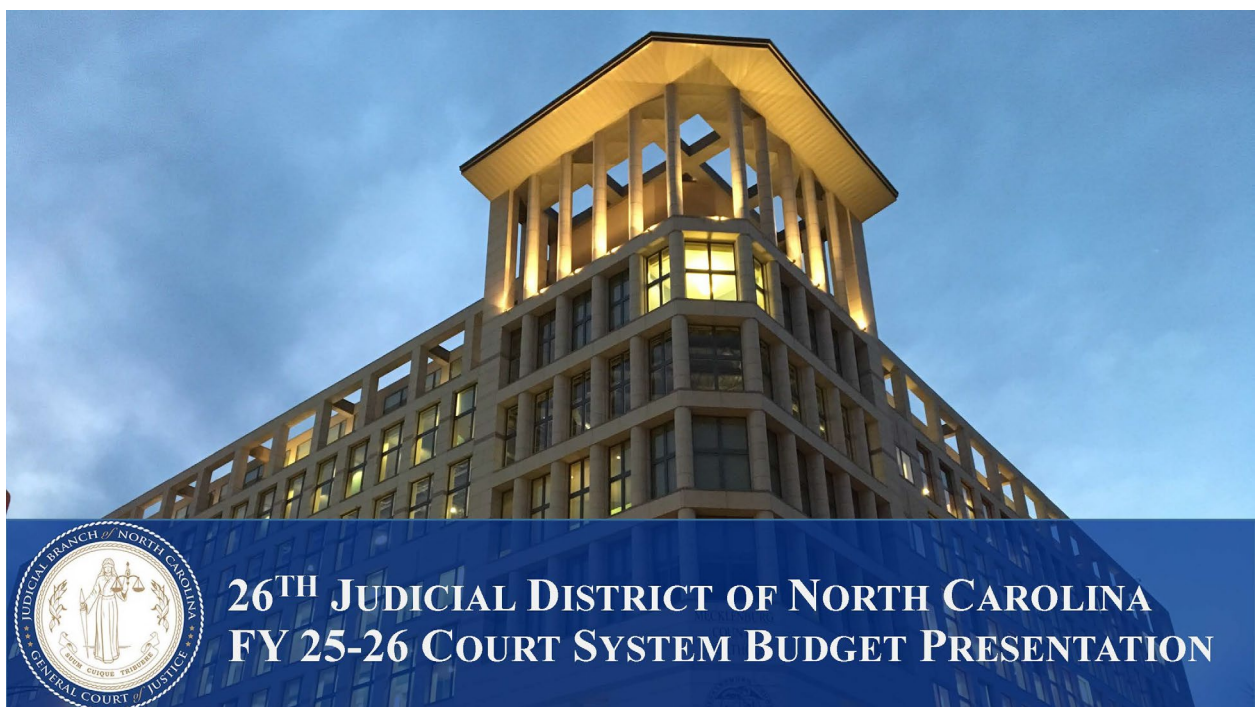
Vice Chair Altman said CPCC was mainly funded by County and State resources. She asked around, mapping what the labor needs were now and in the future. She said she was still looking to hear who was leading and what the game plan was. *Dr. Deitemeyer said there was a lot of work done with their corporate partners and how they met those needs. She said it was just announced that they would be the training partner for a new company coming to Charlotte.* Vice Chair Altman asked what they were doing to get outreach out to men. *Dr. Deitemeyer said they had a new marketing campaign that would be going out the following Monday to draw in more men.*

Chair Jerrell, concerning slide 4, said it was clear that a large segment of the Board was trying to move toward the connection of the workforce. He said seeing data around the matriculation of the student population would be helpful. *Dr. Deitemeyer said if a student was registered in a co-op or apprenticeship, they were being tracked.* Chair Jerrell said he was encouraged and appreciated the workforce efforts, and he saw a response that was the direction the Board wanted to go in with them as partners. He said that getting the word out was very important to push out to residents the opportunities. He said there was a disconnect with connecting to Siemens. He said it would be helpful to make the connection.

25-0297 MECKLENBURG COUNTY COURT OFFICIALS FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST

The Board received a presentation from Casey Calloway, Trial Court Administrator, highlighting the FY2026 budget request from the Mecklenburg County Court Officials.

Background: As part of the development of the FY2026 Recommended Budget, the County Manager will consider a funding request from the court officials. Representatives from Mecklenburg County Courts will present the court official's budget request to the Board of County Commissioners. The court officials budget request includes funding for the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and the Clerk of Superior Court's Office.



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ⇒Our Missions & Visions
- ⇒Thank You for Your Support
- ⇒Return on Investment & Achievement Highlights
- ⇒26th Judicial District Data and Impacts
- ⇒State & Local Funding
- ⇒Budget Priorities
- ⇒Questions



OUR MISSIONS

Mecklenburg County will be a community of pride and choice for people to **LIVE, LEARN, WORK, and RECREATE.**

To provide fair and accessible justice to the community is the fundamental mission of the 26th Judicial District and its justice partners in Mecklenburg County. We are committed to working collaboratively with the community to prevent and solve problems in order to enhance the quality of life for all individuals.



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THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CURRENT AND CONTINUED SUPPORT

Assistant District
Attorneys and Public
Defenders supplemental
salaries






NORTH CAROLINA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of the Courts
Contract Positions

IDS OFFICE OF INDIGENT
DEFENSE SERVICES
SAFEGUARDING JUSTICE

Contract Positions



CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
MECKLENBURG COUNTY
Advancing Court Excellence

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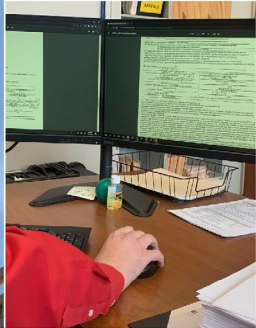
⇒Budget Priorities

⇒Questions




FUNDING FROM MECKLENBURG COUNTY


Document Management



Jury Management



Evidence Presentation System



MECKLENBURG
COUNTY
COURTHOUSE

FUNDING FROM MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Courtroom Audio Upgrades

Annotation Capture

6th Floor Digital Dockets

TCA Training Room 4510

FUNDING FROM MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Judges' Office Furnishings

Judicial Support Workstation

SelfServe Center Monitor Arms and Cable Management

ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS











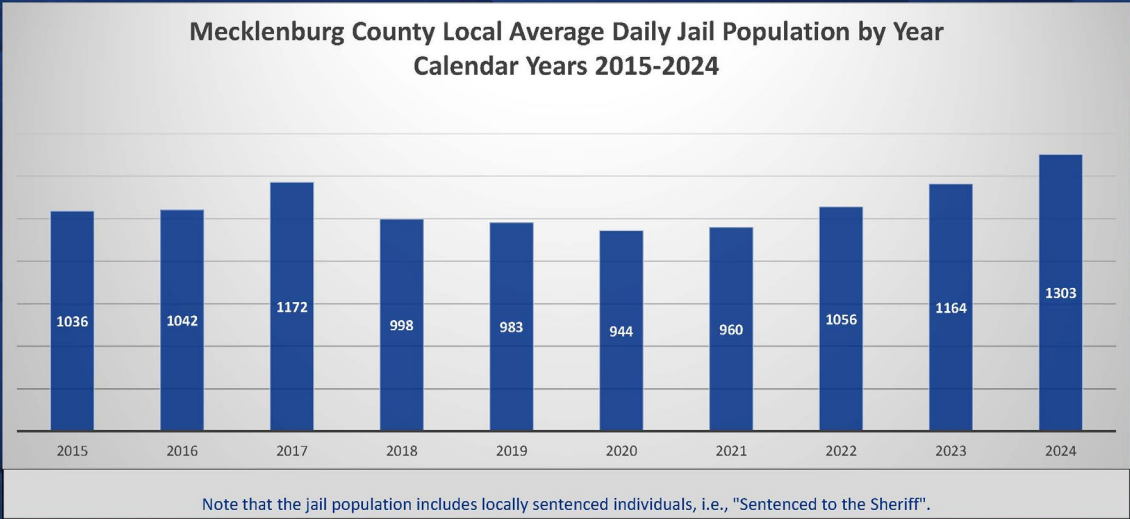


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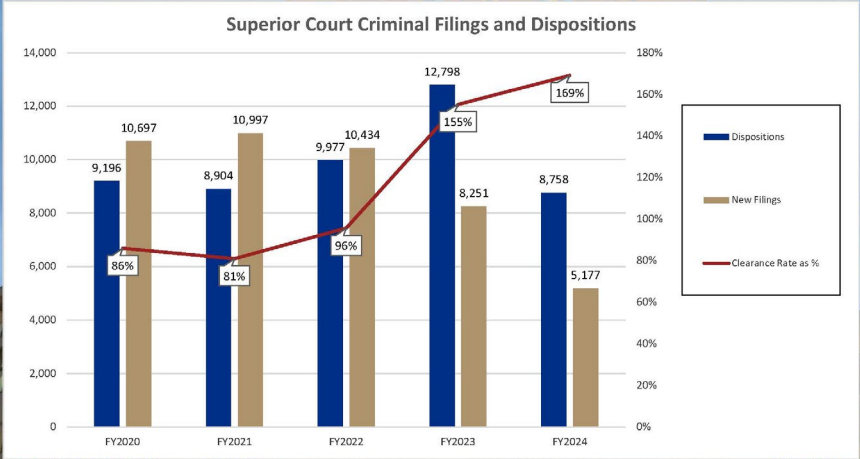
MECKLENBURG COUNTY AVERAGE DAILY JAIL POPULATION



An average of
49,417 people visit
the Courthouse per
month



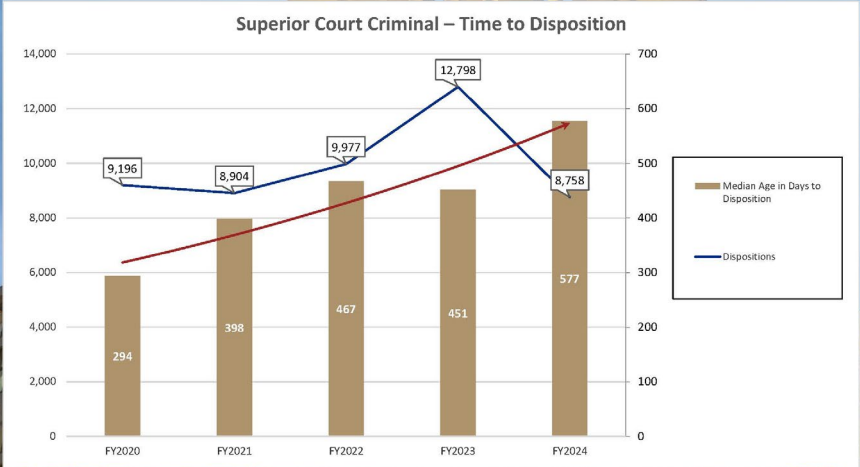
SUPERIOR COURT CRIMINAL TREND ANALYSIS

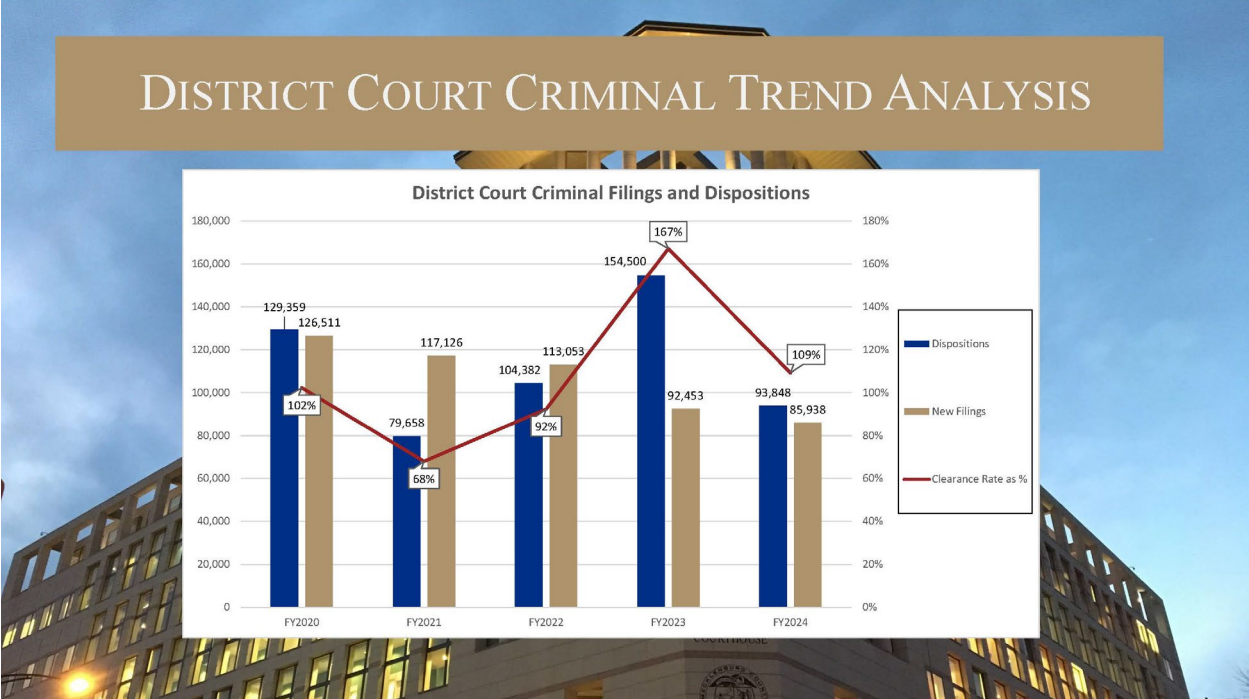
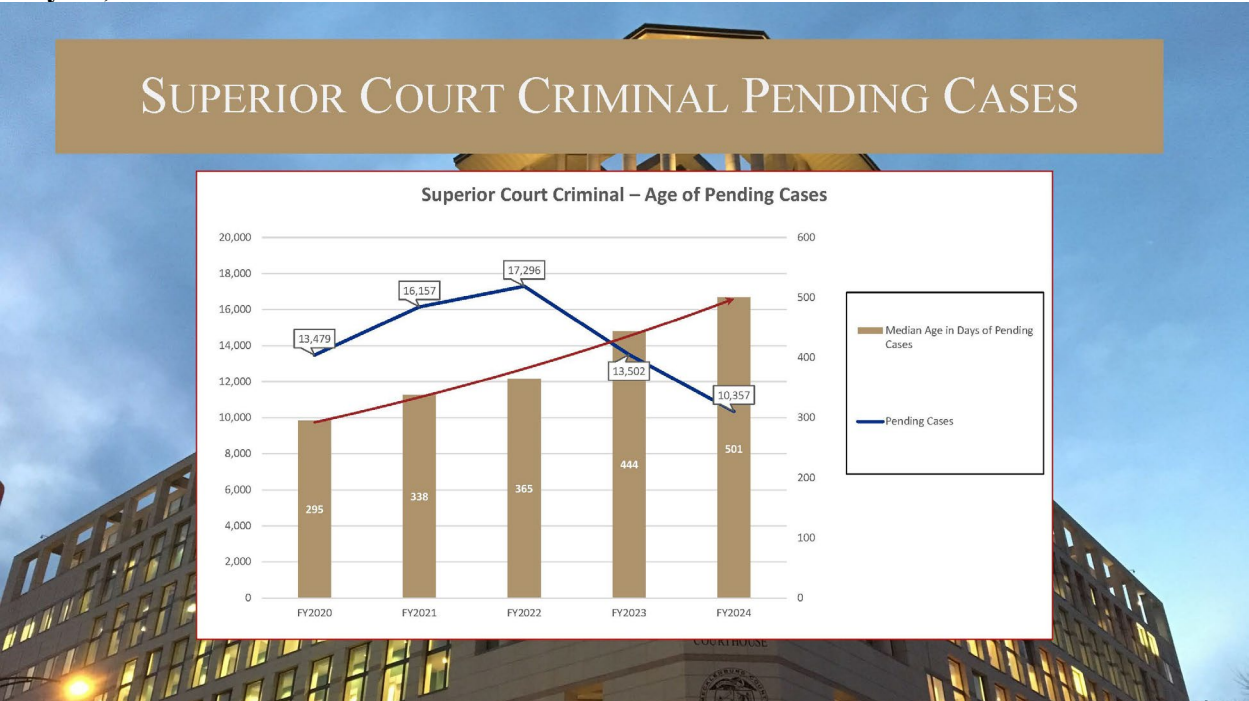


SUPERIOR COURT CRIMINAL CLEARANCE RATE

Fiscal Year	Dispositions	New Filings	Clearance Rate as %
2020	9,196	10,697	86%
2021	8,904	10,997	81%
2022	9,977	10,434	96%
2023	12,798	8,251	155%
2024	8,758	5,177	169%
2020-2024	49,633	45,556	109%

SUPERIOR COURT CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS

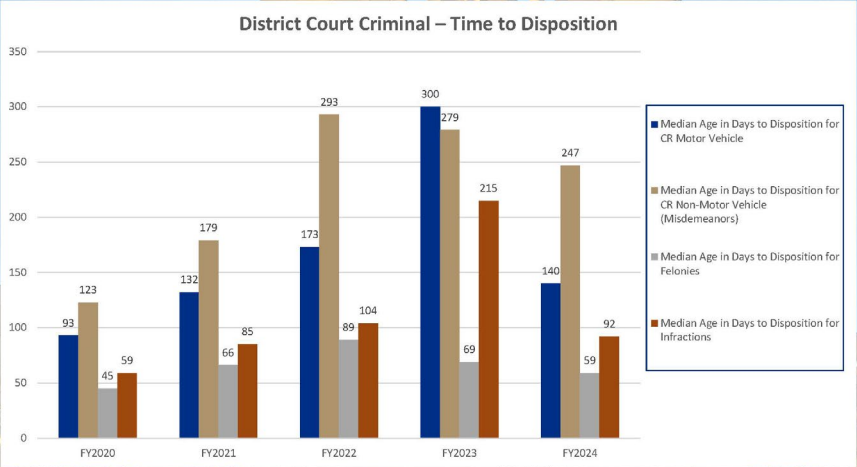




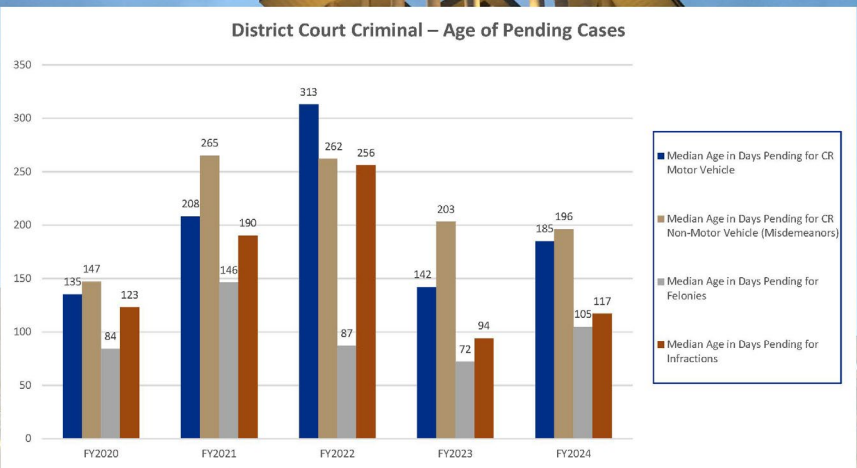
DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL CLEARANCE RATE

Fiscal Year	Dispositions	New Filings	Clearance Rate as %
2020	129,359	126,511	102%
2021	79,658	117,126	68%
2022	104,382	113,053	92%
2023	154,500	92,453	167%
2024	93,848	85,938	109%
2020-2024	561,747	535,081	105%

DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS



DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL PENDING CASES

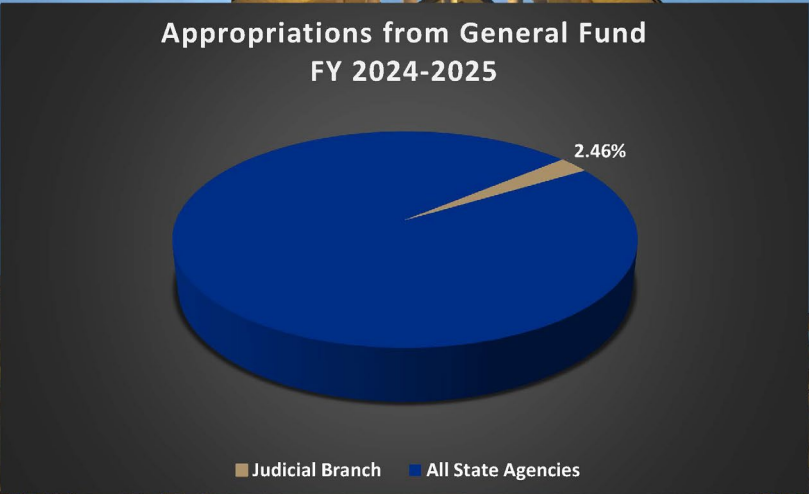


PRESENTATION OUTLINE

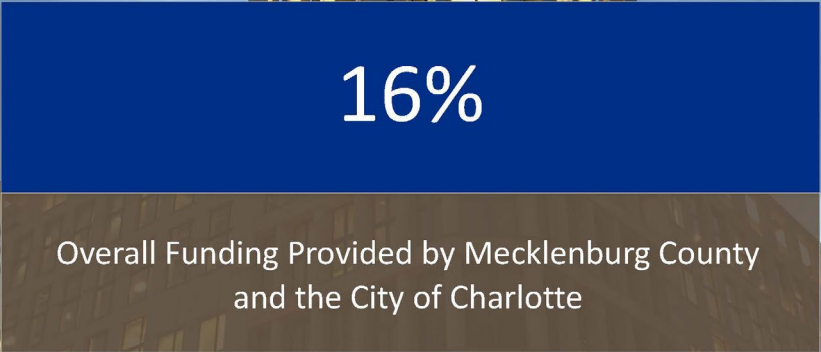
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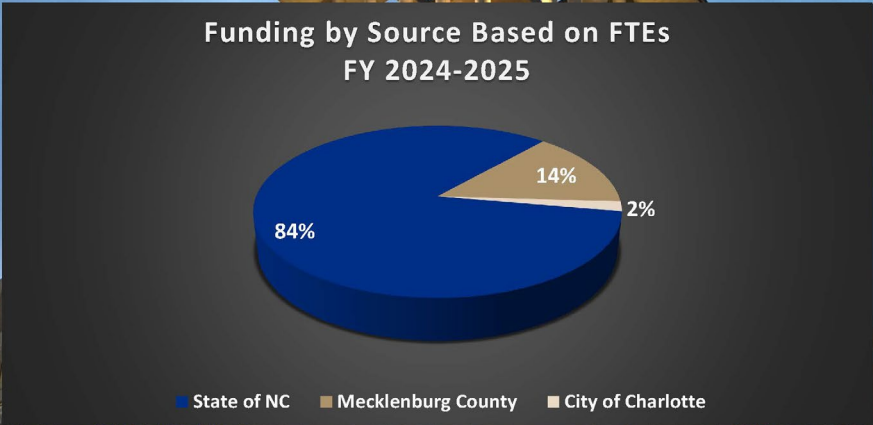
THE JUDICIAL BRANCH RECEIVES LESS THAN 3% OF
\$31.7 BILLION STATE BUDGET



SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING
FROM MECKLENBURG COUNTY AND CITY OF
CHARLOTTE



FUNDING BY SOURCE



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

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COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET

Operating Budget	FY2025 Adopted Budget	FY2026 Requested Budget	Variance	Percentage Change
Salaries	\$62,734	\$62,908	\$174.00	0.3%
Fringe Benefits	\$32,319	\$32,850	\$531	2%
Larry King’s Clubhouse	\$275,000	\$280,000	\$5,000	2%
NCAOC & IDS Contracts	\$7,525,989	\$8,083,166	\$557,177	7%
Other Operational Investment	\$547,432	\$592,508	\$45,076	8%
Other Charges	\$831	\$831	\$0	0%
Total Ongoing Funding:	\$8,444,305	\$9,052,263	\$607,958	7%
One-Time Funds:	\$144,393	\$176,773	\$32,380	22%

COUNTY REQUESTS

IMPROVEMENTS

- Ongoing Expenses \$ 45,076
 - RevQ Upgrade - \$29,971
 - Interactive Voice Response System Upgrade - \$7,605
 - Jury Summons Postage - \$7,500
- One-Time Expenses \$ 176,773
 - Jury Management System - \$30,515
 - Document Management - \$146,258

IMPROVEMENTS TOTAL: \$ 221,849

COUNTY REQUESTS

PERSONNEL

- Larry King’s Clubhouse \$ 5,000

FY2025 Allocation	FY2026 Requested Allocation	Variance	Percentage Change
\$275,000	\$280,000	\$5,000	2%



COUNTY REQUESTS

PERSONNEL

- IDS Contract Request

Public Defender’s Office

Fringe Benefit Cost Increases (14 Positions)	\$ 14,582
Salary Adjustments for Recruitment and Retention	\$ 49,650

FY2025 Allocation for IDS Contract Positions	FY2026 Requested Allocation for IDS Contract Positions	Variance	Percentage Change
\$1,128,416	\$1,192,648	\$64,232	6%

COUNTY REQUESTS

PERSONNEL

- AOC Contract Request

District Attorney's Office

Fringe Benefit Cost Increases (48 Positions)	\$ 41,492
Salary Adjustments for Recruitment and Retention	\$ 130,884

FY2025 Allocation for NCAOC Contract Positions	FY2026 Requested Allocation for NCAOC Contract Positions	Variance	Percentage Change
\$3,496,085	\$3,668,461	\$172,376	5%

COUNTY REQUESTS

PERSONNEL

- AOC Contract Request

Trial Court Administrator's Office

Fringe Benefit Cost Increases (14 Positions) \$ 13,406

Salary Adjustments for Recruitment and Retention \$ 41,327

FY2025 Allocation for NCAOC Contract Positions	FY2026 Requested Allocation for NCAOC Contract Positions	Variance	Percentage Change
\$1,273,061	\$1,327,794	\$54,733	4%

COUNTY REQUESTS

PERSONNEL

- AOC Contract Request

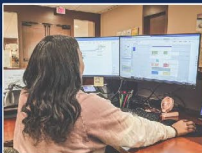
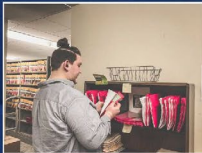
Clerk of Superior Court's Office

Fringe Benefit Cost Increases (8 Existing Positions) \$ 768

Salary Adjustments for Recruitment and Retention (8 Pos.) \$ 2,328

Four (4) New Full-Time Deputy Clerk Positions \$ 262,740

FY2025 Allocation for NCAOC Contract Positions	FY2026 Requested Allocation for NCAOC Contract Positions	Variance	Percentage Change
\$584,652	\$850,488	\$265,836	45%



THE 26TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
WORKING FOR MECKLENBURG COUNTY



Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2025



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU

CASEY CALLOWAY

TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR

MECKLENBURG COUNTY COURTHOUSE, SUITE 4420

(704) 686-0265

CASEY.L.CALLOWAY@NCCOURTS.ORG



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Comments

Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked who was responsible for not funding what was mandated. She also asked if there was a cost associated with the Sheriff and the mandates with ICE. She asked if there was a standard so they could require those agencies to hold up their end of the deal. *Judge Chinn-Gary said they quantified what the need was, and there were many new initiatives that put new responsibilities on the court system with no workforce to follow through.* Commissioner Townsend-Ingram asked if there were mandates with ICE that were new, and they now had a responsibility to do.

Mr. Merriweather said there was no legislation passed that pertained to the District Attorney's Office. He said the General Assembly played a significant role in what they were doing and resourced. He said the Senate budget said they were open to adding 10 and 5 new positions. He said they often compared themselves to other jurisdictions and encouraged people to compare them to Jacksonville, Memphis, and other cities. He said the problems they were facing here were vaster. Ms. Calloway added that the workload studies that were created by the AOC in conjunction with the National Center for State Courts were given to the General Assembly yearly. She said it was based on how much their office needed in terms of staffing and resources to support the number of filings coming into the County. She said concerning ICE, a new bill was passed in 2025, in which there must be a detainer in the processing of new paperwork. She said that it had been a new additional responsibility. Mr. Tully added that the study showed that the work his office was doing should have an additional 30 lawyers.

Commissioner Dunlap told Ms. Calloway he appreciated the work she was doing. He said they made a compelling case for why the Board should support what they were asking for. He said there was nothing to say about what the State did not do, and he didn't expect them to do it.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell said it was outrageous what they were trying to do with a minimal budget. She asked how they had such a low vacancy rate with such low pay and so much work. *Judge Chinn-Gary said there were concentrated efforts to rebuild after losing 46% of their staff around COVID-19. She said they were thankful for the ones that stayed to provide the heavy lift. Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell thanked them for the work they did. She said people had no idea how badly broken the judicial system was. She said people had to realize that everything was connected, and having 3% of the State's budget going to the judicial system was insane.*

Commissioner Meier said she thought the General Assembly wanted Mecklenburg County to fail in education and the judicial system. She said she wished they would ask for what they really needed. She asked if anyone went to the press to fight, since they were not listening. *Mr. Tully said The Observer did publish an article of the lack of counsel, about three months prior.* Commissioner Meier said the people didn't realize it wasn't the judges' fault but the State's.

Commissioner Leake said she would do whatever she could to ensure they got what they needed. She said their problems were different from those of other communities, and she hoped they could make it better.

Commissioner Griffin said he was supportive of framing the issue for the general public. He said the quality of life in terms of people feeling safe was part of their marketing for economic development. He asked them to expand on the length of time for the district court to dispose of cases in the State. He said all of the court system had to work better. He asked if there was something they could do to address that issue. *Ms. Calloway said Mecklenburg County had the 2nd highest pending criminal cases and infractions, which at the time were 40,500 cases. She said the time to disposition cases was at 247 days, which was an incredible amount of time from filing to the closing of cases. She said the age of pending cases was on the rise for misdemeanor cases, at 196 days. She said motor vehicle cases were at 185 days, felonies were at 105 days, and infractions were at 117 days. She said they needed those positions to move the cases on. She said personnel would help close the gap. Mr. Merriweather said the work had gotten harder*

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with more complex cases. He said their court ran more criminal sessions than anywhere in the State, while the number of sessions held may shrink due to the workload.

Vice Chair Altman said they were incredible public servants. She said she'd love to partner with them to put out an ad asking for pro bono work and highlight them at the end of the year for the work they'd done. She mentioned that the Counsel for Children's Rights, the public defender piece, had shut down. She asked what was going to happen.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell left the meeting at 4:40 pm.

Mr. Tully said the juvenile representation aspect had ceased. He said there were 5 lawyers who went into private practice, who would be billing the State, and had space in his office to meet with clients. Ms. Calloway said the customer advocacy had shuttered as well. She said they had 50 pending cases that were dependent upon those attorneys. Mr. Merriweather said they were cases of kids committing murder and said it was a danger to society. Judge Chinn-Gary said she was disappointed to hear of it folding. She said her office took on the responsibility of doing the work. She said she was happy to fill the gap.

Chair Jerrell thanked them for their work. He said it was up to them to prioritize, and based on the comments and feedback, they were a high priority.

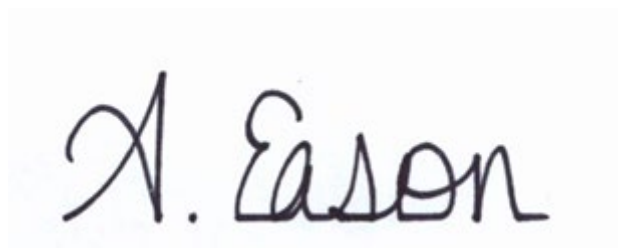
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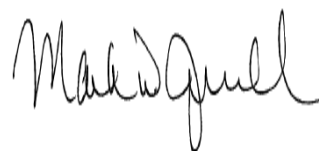
Commissioners shared information of their choosing within the guidelines as established by the Board, which included, but not limited to, past and/or upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Jerrell declared the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



Arlissa Eason, Deputy Clerk to the Board



Mark Jerrell, Chair