# Leadership North Carolina

**Wake County Board of Commissioners Chair Shinica Thomas** Nov. 8, 2023











# Rankings

#### #3

hottest housing market in the US

### 3rd

best large college city in America

### **Top 10**

metro area for highest academic achievement in K-12 education

### **Top 10**

for tech talent and tech innovation

### **Top 10**

safest cities in America

### **Top 20**

most fun places to live in the U.S.

# Top 10 largest counties in NC

- 1. Wake County
- 2. Mecklenburg County
- 3. Guilford County
- 4. Forsyth County
- 5. Cumberland County
- 6. Durham County
- 7. Buncombe County
- 8. Union County
- 9. Cabarrus County
- 10. New Hanover County

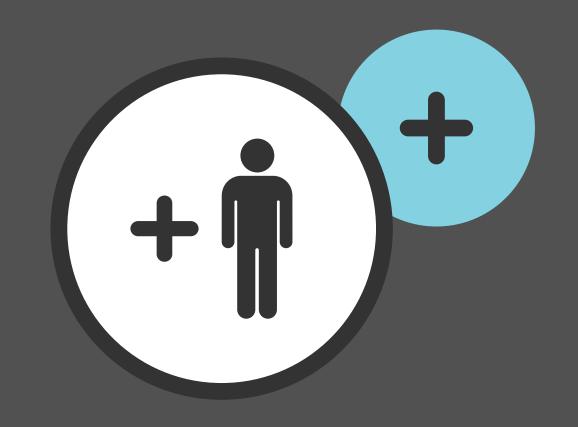


# **Population Size**

Wake County's population is currently estimated at 1.18 million residents 440,000 households

# Wake County is growing by

5 6 people per day



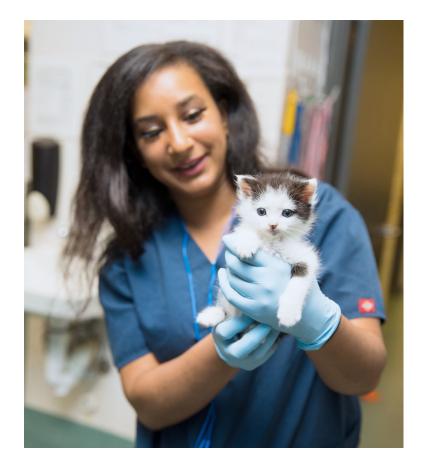
### 46% of our new residents are 55+

- Wake County will have more residents over 60 than children under 18 by 2029
- Impacts our service delivery and the kinds of services needed

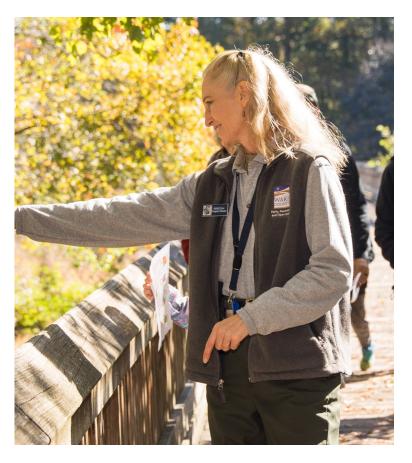


# 4,400

# Wake County Employees

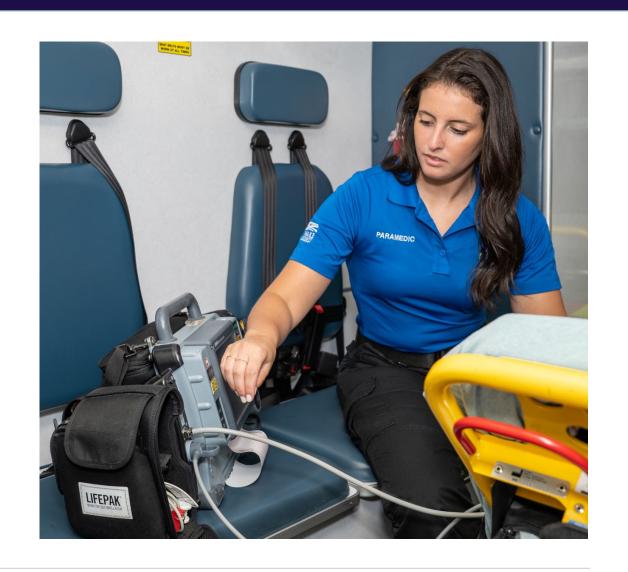


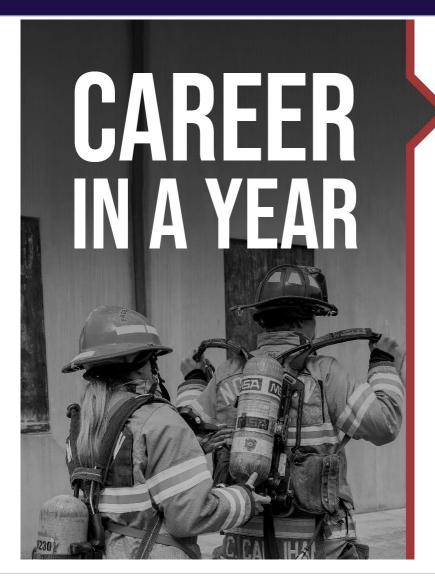




### **Team Wake**

- Animal Center
- Board of Elections
- Wake EMS
- Fire and Emergency Management
- Parks & Nature Preserves
- Libraries
- Waste & Recycling
- Health & Human Services
- Affordable Housing
- Veterans Services
- Register of Deeds





# Make a difference as a certified firefighter

- Salary and benefits while you train
- Academy tuition covered
- An exciting career doing meaningful work

WAKE.GOV/FIRECAREER

# Parks, Libraries, Veterans





## **PNC Arena**

#### MAIN CONCOURSE EXPANDED FOOD AND BEVERAGE/GRAB & GO VISIONING









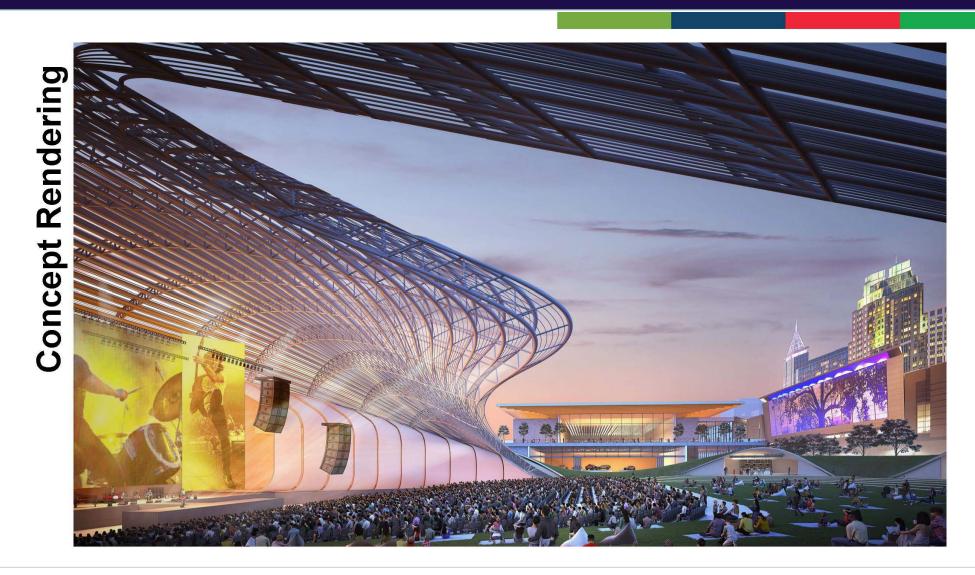




WAKE COUNTY

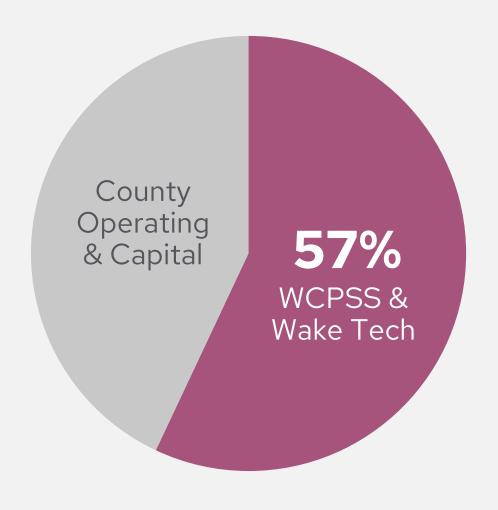
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### Raleigh Convention Center & Red Hat Amphitheater

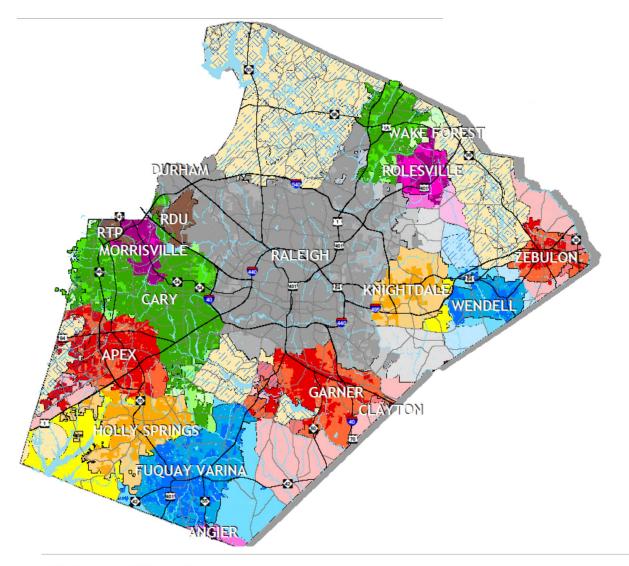


Education investment accounts for 57% of the FY2024 budget:

<\$1 Billion



# Collaborate with 12 municipalities



Apex

Cary

Fuquay-Varina

Garner

Holly Springs

Knightdale

Morrisville

Raleigh

Rolesville

Wake Forest

Wendell

Zebulon

# Wake County Board of Commissioners

- 7 commissioners from 7 districts
- Elected county-wide
- 4-year terms
- Changes coming
  - In 2024 the 7 existing seats will run within their districts
  - In 2026 two new commissioners will run at-large
- Meetings twice a month, one at 2 p.m. & one at 5 p.m.
- Public comment period allows any resident 3 minutes to share their thoughts



### **Board Functions**

- Creating county ordinances (laws)
  - Non-discrimination ordinance, farmland preservation ordinance
- Working on economic development packages
- Planning and funding capital improvements
- Acquiring and preserving open space
- Passing the county budget
  - Funding for the Wake County Public School System, Wake Tech and the Wake County Sherriff's Department
  - Funds innovative programs like affordable housing, Wake EMS, libraries
- Communicate with the community through correspondence and events like this, talking with community members about their priorities

**WAKE COUNTY** 

# Affordable Housing



WAKE COUNTY 17

# **Affordable Housing Preservation Fund**

# \$61.7 million

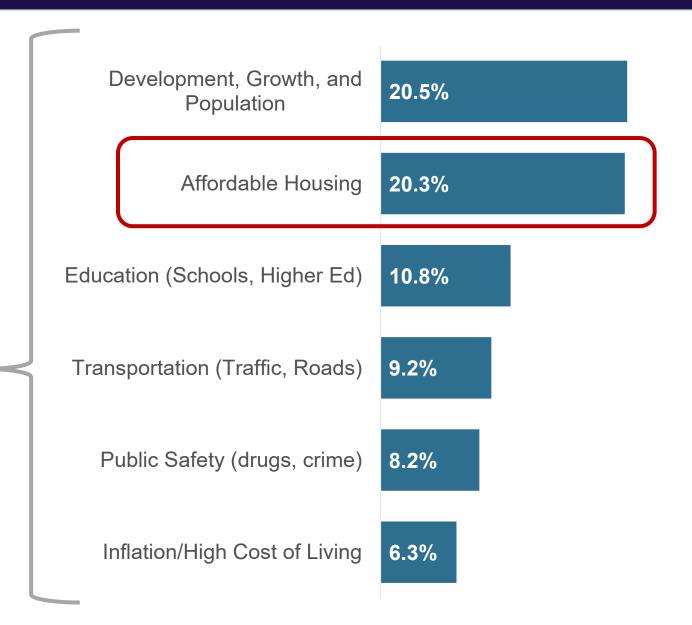
Investment by Wake, Raleigh, Self-Help Ventures Fund & private banks, to date

- Launched in 2022
- Loans help acquire or preserve naturally occurring affordable units, keep rents low using low-income housing tax credits.
- 62 units preserved to date

Affordable Housing 18

# Most important issues facing Wake County

- Community Survey conducted in fall 2022
- 2,261 respondents, representative sample
- Open-ended question
- Development, growth, and population and affordable housing are the top two issues



# Why Public Service?

# Get Involved!